

# **crossroads**

MSSU Alumni Publication Spring 2009



## **TIME TO ROAR**

**Southern booms  
with construction**

**Plus...**

**Homecoming '08**

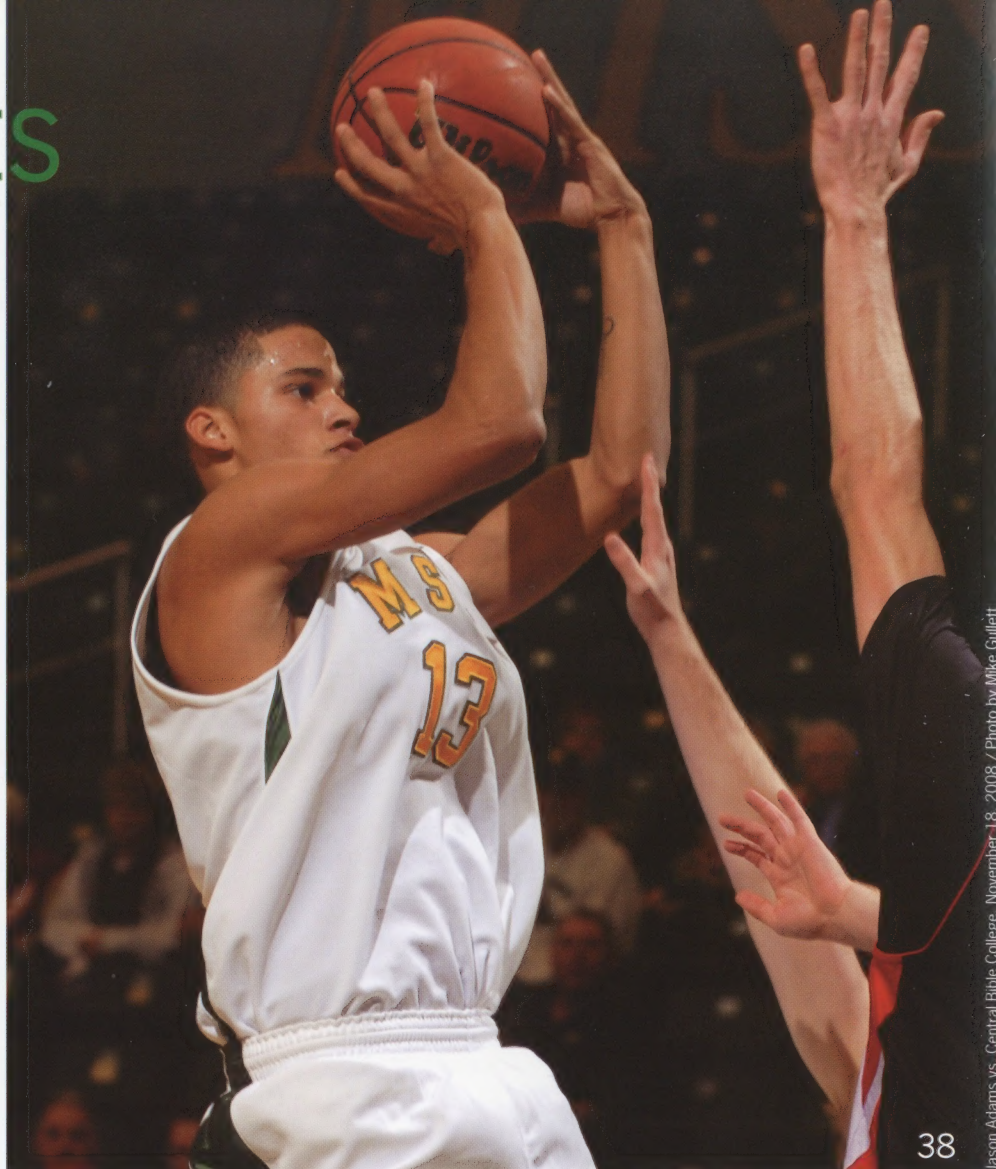
**Academic updates**

**Lion sports**

**And more!**



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Jason Adams vs. Central Bible College, November 18, 2008 / Photo by Mike Gullett

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Cover illustration by Jessi Youngblood, '09;  
photo by Jim Quist, '09.





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#### **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

**Crossroads** magazine is the official alumni publication of the Missouri Southern State University Alumni Association. The mission is to serve its readers by providing information of interest about the University, its alumni and the Alumni Association and by acting as a channel for Missouri Southern alumni as a "connection for life" with the University.

**Crossroads** magazine is published two times a year by the Missouri Southern State University Alumni Association and the Department of Communication. It is mailed to current MSSU Alumni Association members and friends of the University. A select number of copies are distributed on campus each semester.

**Crossroads** is written and designed by faculty, staff, students and alumni. The views expressed do not represent the student body, faculty, staff, administration or Missouri Southern State University.

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Dear MSSU Alumni and Friends:

Welcome to the new Crossroads magazine!

This past year has been an exciting one at Missouri Southern. With the retirement of our long-time president, Dr. Julio León, we have seen the inauguration of our new president, Dr. Bruce Speck; the moving of the alumni offices across campus to the Hempen House; and the continued work to restore our future home at the Mission Hills Mansion.

Growth on our campus is apparent by the construction of two major projects. The Beindiek Student Recreation Center and a new health sciences building are under construction. An in-depth story on these projects is on pages 23 though 26.

Our alumni base continues to grow with every graduating class. With that, the interest in Missouri Southern by our alumni and constituents continues to grow. We receive continued support from our alumni and friends, as education and University support appears to be an area of great interest.

The Alumni Association continues to work with outside sources for additional grants to provide you with a variety of programs, opportunities and events throughout the year. We hope you will continue to support Missouri Southern through your alumni memberships, donations, gifts of in-kind goods and volunteerism.

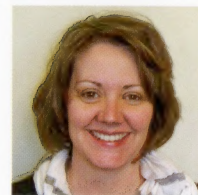
Throughout this next year, your Alumni Association will continue to sponsor tailgate parties and pregame receptions, host events like Legacy Day and travel to areas, including Springfield, Kansas City and northwest Arkansas, to continue to foster Lion pride and spirit.

The Adopt-a-Lion program was a great success in 2008, with more than 40 lions finding new homes throughout the Joplin area. This year, we hope to continue with the adoption program. Proceeds from this fundraising project help underwrite the \$8,000 the Alumni Association awards in scholarships.

Lion Pride alumni license plates will soon be redesigned with our new Lion logo. For more information on how to participate in the "License to Drive" program, check our Web site or call our office for more information. These donations also help our scholarship program.

Please take a moment and e-mail us your thoughts about this issue or to provide us with your updated information regarding work, children or grandchildren. We can be reached via e-mail at [AlumniAssoc@mssu.edu](mailto:AlumniAssoc@mssu.edu) or by telephone at 417-659-LION.

We are here to provide you with your "connection for life" to Missouri Southern.



In Lion Pride,  
 Lee Elliff Pound, '86, Alumni Director



As the men's basketball game was about to begin on December 6, 2008, the arena was almost half full. Dr. Bruce Speck stepped onto the floor to hand out an award to a supportive alumnus. The announcer introduced the players, and fans cheered as Speck settled in behind the media table in Leggett & Platt Arena. Fans seated around him were ready for an exciting game against Central Missouri University, but at this point in the night, Speck was ready to sit down.

Hours before the game, he and his wife, Carmen, treated the international students to dinner at their house. Speck bowed out on his guests so he could catch the last half of the women's game.

After he stepped out of the spotlight at the game, he remembered he was scheduled to judge a contest at halftime and do an interview with student broadcasters after the game.

"If you like what you're doing, it's not bad," said Speck of his busy schedule. "I can't imagine someone in my position not wanting to be involved in things. It energizes me."

Since the beginning of his time in Joplin, Speck knew it would never be easy.

By unanimous decision in early 2008, the Missouri Southern State University Board of Governors selected Speck as the school's fourth president. After six years as provost and vice president for academic and student affairs and teaching ethics courses in the President's Emerging Leaders Program at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tennessee, Speck stepped into his presidential post in a whirlwind. Within hours of arrival, meetings and events filled his calendar.

Speck became known around campus for his trademark fedora and attendance at seemingly every event. Involvement was a necessary part of his job.

"Being the president of the university,

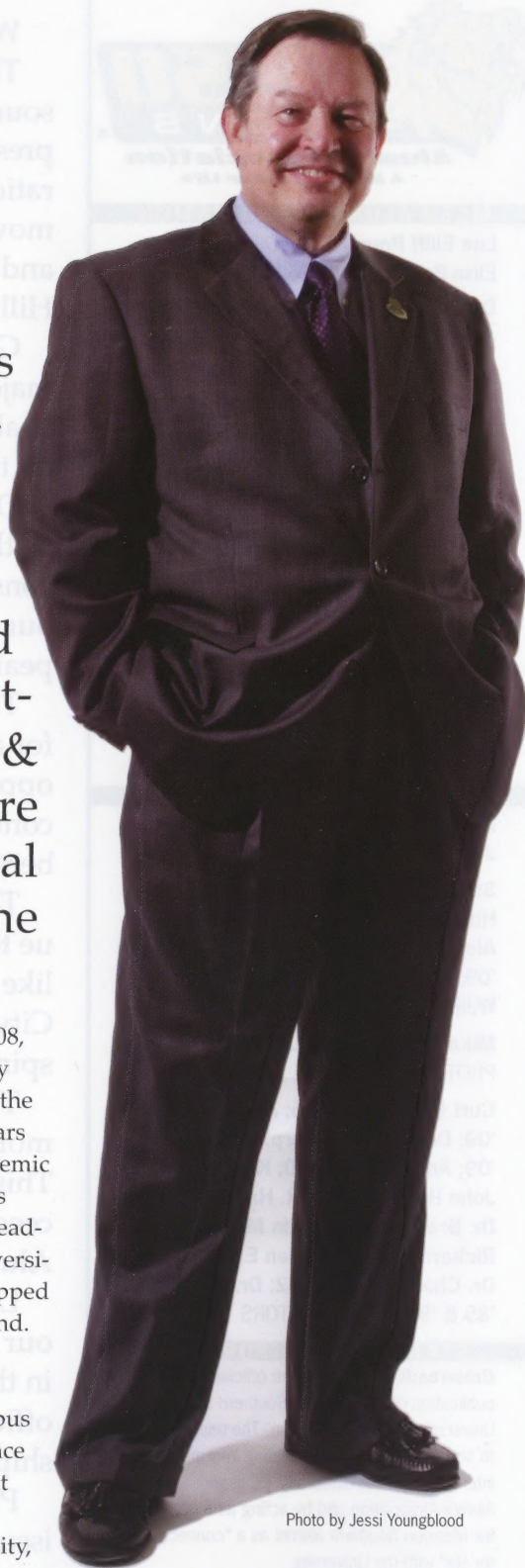
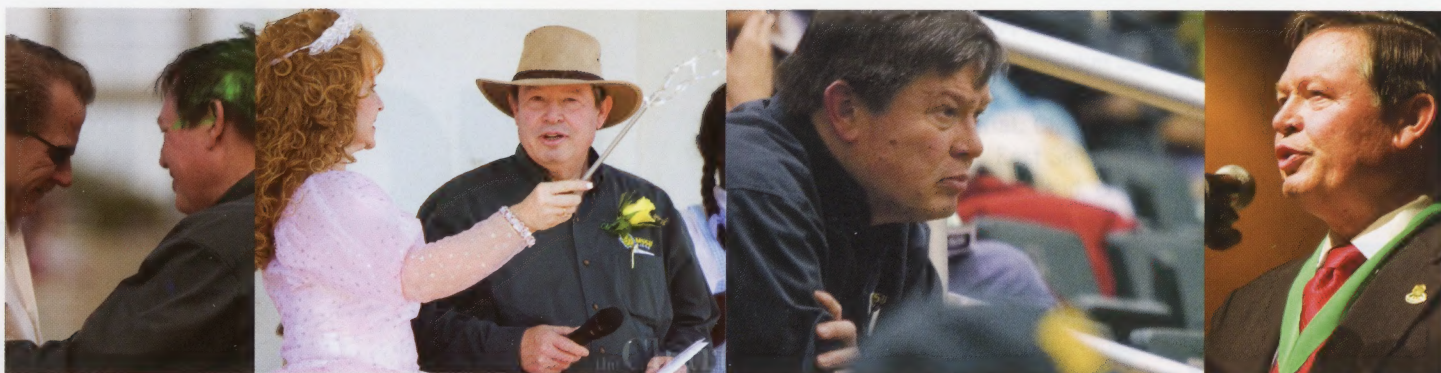


Photo by Jessi Youngblood

# 'I had to be a Lion'

Southern's president discusses service, education and community pride





Photos by Glenn Landberg and Alexandra Nicolas

you are the face of the university," he said. "It's a very busy job. As soon as I took the position, I had to be a Lion. It's not optional."

He admittedly does not know much about sports but believes successful teams will be good for the community and for the university. He is willing to do almost anything to see that happen, even attending last fall's football homecoming with green hair.

Speck said increased school spirit will play a major role in adding numbers to Southern's enrollment.

He tries to attend everything from sporting events to theater productions. He also wants to make himself available to everyone interested in university affairs.

"I'm here to serve and draw the community together," he said.

"I get a lot of invitations to come over and grill out or to go out for dinner, and I've made it a priority to take those invitations."

The common threads in his plans, Speck believes, are the alumni. By working alongside them, Speck thinks the university's goals are attainable.

"We need alumni and people involved with the school to give financially, to send students and encourage them to come here, to participate in scholarships and athletic projects," he said.

Speck attributes much of his manner to those who influenced him throughout his life. His biggest role models are his parents.

"My father showed me the value of hard work and respect," Speck said.

"I was the first in my family to gradu-

ate from college."

Once, at a university event, Speck saw the trash beginning to overflow, so he took it out himself.

Those who noticed were surprised, but he says that is the way good leaders showed him how to lead.

At Austin Peay, Speck learned under the mentorship of then-President Sherry Hoppe, who held the position from 2001-07.

"President Hoppe showed me how to be a president," Speck said.

Speck believes Southern has competitive programs and faculty and that education at Southern is on par with anywhere else. If the community is not involved, however, he doubts local students will want to attend.

"I want to paint the town green and gold and make the university a vital part of the community," Speck said.

He envisions the streets leading to the university lined with banners and area businesses contributing to school spirit. He also hopes to make major changes to the athletic buildings and fields, as they will play a part in attracting new students.

Speck would like to see opportunities for alumni to name buildings and scholarships and thinks they are vital for connecting the university with the community.

In turn, he hopes to be the link between alumni and the administration.

"I deeply appreciate the alumni and all they do for the university," Speck said.

"I want them to know they have access to me. If they need anything from me, they can call." **C**

— Colby Williams, '09

## DR. BRUCE SPECK

### Professional

President of MSSU (February 2008 to present)

Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, Austin Peay State University (2001-07)

Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and Professor of English (2000-01) and Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Professor of English and Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (1999-2000), University of North Carolina at Pembroke

### Education

Ph.D. in English with emphasis in rhetoric and composition, University of Nebraska-Lincoln (1980-84)

Master of Arts in English, Wayne State College, Nebraska (1978-80)

Bachelor of Arts in English, University of Northern Colorado (1973-75)

### Personal

Jobs outside higher ed: construction worker, meat packing plant worker, manager for fast food, science writer, consultant for writing seminars

Wife: Carmen

Children: Heidi (32), Ryan (30) and Rose-Marie (25)

Favorite book: Other than the Bible, "From Dawn to Decadence" by Jacques Barzun

Favorite food: "I haven't met a morsel of food that I didn't like."

*Photos, from left, Missouri Southern State University President Bruce Speck shows his true colors on the field at Southern's Homecoming, October 4, 2008. Speck chats with Dr. Beverly Block, dressed as Glenda the Good Witch, at Southern's annual Homecoming picnic, October 3, 2008. Focused on the court, Speck watches a men's basketball game, December 6, 2008. Speck speaks at his inauguration, when he was welcomed as Southern's fourth president, on September 19, 2008.*



# Leading the





# the way



*Ruth Kolpin-Rubison relaxes at her Carthage, Missouri, home. She began her broadcast career with the purchase of a 250-watt radio station. Photo by Glenn Landberg*

## The visionary style of Ruth Kolpin-Rubison helps advance KGCS

She stood outside a towering marble building, and although it bore her name above the door, she had never seen it before. The entrance featured technology never before imagined, but somehow she knew how to open the door. Just a thumb on a computer screen, and the door slid open. Although experiencing it all for the first time, she knew this strange building was hers.

Years later, Ruth Kolpin-Rubison remembered her futuristic dream and laughed at how the technology she once thought far-fetched had come to pass. The dream represented open doors in her future as well as doors she would open for others. Now, one of those doors, opened by Kolpin-Rubison for Missouri Southern, does bear her name.

Last year, the Missouri Southern State University Department of Communication dedicated KGCS-TV studios to Ruth I. Kolpin. The donation from her foundation made possible the upgrade to digital broadcasting.

"She established a foundation, giving us money for the Kolpin Scholarship and our Media Showcase Day," said Judy Stiles, KGCS-TV general manager. "That all led up to her contribution to the station. It was a six-figure donation to help with the upgrade of KGCS. Now we have a new transmitter and antenna. We're all digital and broadcasting all over the region."

Forced to move stations and deal with the national transition to digital, the Missouri Southern station faced a challenge. With Kolpin-Rubison's contribution, the station broadcasts on Channel 22 and was the first station in the area to go completely digital.

"Projecting yourself through young people is a wonderful thing," Kolpin-Rubison said. "Fulfilling needs is what life's all about. I think it will lead to many rewarding careers for those students. All of these things lead to a better life. Missouri



Southern does so much for southwest Missouri, so I think Southern and the wonderful leadership it has had and all the new buildings will add to the growth."

She moved to Carthage in 1962 with her family to follow her dream. She began saving when she made \$75 per week and wanted to own a radio station. When she came to Carthage, she bought a 250-watt station and expanded from there.

"She's a real visionary, a strong supporter to Southern and the region," Stiles said. "She's very fascinating, optimistic, not only in her background but her view of the world. She's been a tremendous supporter of what we do. She's accomplished a lot in her career and wants to make sure the field continues to prosper through our students."

After attending a convention, Kolpin-Rubison knew she wanted to develop a cable network in addition to radio. In 1965, she was granted the franchise for cable in the area and called her company Carthage Cablevision Inc. Her enterprise expanded to 27 cable systems under four corporations.

Her radio network, Carthage Broadcasting Co., also continued to grow, as did her vision. When FM radio first arrived, she was one of the first to push for it in the area.



Photo by Glenn Landberg

Ruth Kolpin-Rubison participates in the Missouri Southern Homecoming parade, October 4, 2008. Kolpin-Rubison was one of the Lion-Hearted recipients in 2008.

At the time, Carthage had about 11,000 people, and there was a law against having an FM transmitter in a city over 10,000, so she petitioned and got the law changed for the whole nation. Her contemporaries affectionately called these "Ruth's Rules."

"All I have today came from a 250-watt radio station that I saved my money to buy," Kolpin-Rubison said about her illustrious and hard-fought career. "I've seen a lot of evolution in cable, from the days of tall towers to satellite dishes, large and small. When I started we had those huge reel-to-reel recorders. They were so heavy. I used to just pray something wouldn't

break. With all these new technologies merging together, it will create so many new things in the future."

She believes Southern is doing a fine job training well-rounded journalists in the new advances in the field. Through her scholarship, she hopes to enable broadcast students to capitalize on such change and growth. The Ruth I. Kolpin Broadcast Journalism Scholarship, established in 2003, emphasizes a vision toward the future of journalism and involvement in one's community, following in the footsteps of her life and career.

"The scholarship has really touched the lives of students directly," Stiles said.

One of few women in the early days of broadcasting, Kolpin-Rubison is an example to women following her in the field. Early in her career, circumstances put her in leadership positions over men. They often admired her abilities and vision, even before women commonly held leadership positions.

"If women didn't think there was a glass ceiling, there wouldn't be one," she said. "I think a woman has to work a little harder than a man and challenge the minds of the men she's going to lead." **C**

— Colby Williams, '09



Mitch Mason, senior mass communications major, adjusts his headset as Judy Stiles, KGCS general manager, prepares to conduct an interview with Ron Petersen for an edition of Newsmakers, recorded in the Ruth I. Kolpin Studio at Missouri Southern. A donation by Petersen's mother, Ruth Kolpin-Rubison, enables the MSSU station to broadcast in digital format.



# Gifts lead to record year at Southern

It's nice to have a chance to talk about the Missouri Southern Foundation and what we accomplished during the past year, especially since this past year was a very good one.



Fiscal year 2007-2008 was a record year for the Foundation in terms of total fundraising revenue and funds provided to the University.

This was made possible by the generosity of our donors over the past year as well as commitments made long ago that are just now coming to realization in the form of gifts from estates.

Total giving of more than \$2.1 million made this our best year ever.

Once the gifts are in the door, the primary expenditures of the Foundation are for the support of students and University infrastructure. In addition, there are also administrative and fundraising expenses necessary to run the Foundation.

We track the support to the University in five primary categories: scholarships, faculty and department support, facilities improvement, cultural activities and general Univer-

sity support.

Last year, Foundation scholarships provided direct assistance to 287 students, totaling \$370,886, along with an additional \$160,000 in scholarship funding provided to the Honors Program for student support.

While scholarships provide the most direct form of student support, contributions for facilities improvement supports the entire student body.

In the 2006-2007 fiscal year, more than \$1 million was provided to assist in funding the new Beimdiek Student Recreation Center, helping to reduce student fees.

Also included in facilities improvements was \$645,000 to begin the Mission Hills Mansion remodel. These gifts are reflected in the 2007-2008 fiscal year listed below.

The list of projects grows as you add faculty and departmental support efforts and general support to the University, but those are stories better examined more closely in their own articles.

So for now, thanks to everyone who helped make 2007-2008 our best year yet supporting Missouri Southern.

— Curt Betebenner, '75, Director  
Missouri Southern Foundation

## MISSOURI SOUTHERN FOUNDATION FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008

### Revenue from fundraising

Contributions	\$1,134,083
Phonathon	\$ 80,172
Estate Gifts	\$ 925,528
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$2,139,783</b>

### Support to MSSU

Scholarships	\$ 530,886
Faculty and Department Support	\$ 405,090
Facilities Improvement	\$2,166,467
General University Support	\$ 143,398
Cultural Activities	\$ 67,500
<b>Total Support</b>	<b>\$3,313,341 *</b>

\* Support to MSSU includes contributions and other earnings.

## We've moved!

*The Foundation is located in Room 211 of Hearn's Hall.*

*Please visit us in our new home or contact us at 417-625-9396.*

*Online donations can be made by clicking on the Online Gift Form at: [www.mssu.edu/foundation](http://www.mssu.edu/foundation)*

*Your generous gifts are greatly appreciated.*



Dr. Julio León:

# Writing a new chapter

**D**r. Julio S. León announced his retirement as president of Missouri Southern State University on August 17, 2007. The public and the Southern community reacted with surprise and sadness.

"I have had a rewarding and fulfilling opportunity to lead this great institution for two and a half decades," León said at the time of his retirement. "All good things must come to an end, but that doesn't mean each of us can't begin more good things."

The MSSU Board of Governors named him president emeritus a few months after his retirement. He spent 25 years as Southern's president and nearly 40 years as a member of the faculty and administration.

He was only the third president in Southern's history since its transition into a four-year college in the 1960s.

Under his leadership, Southern gained university status in 2003. In May 2006, León presided over the hooding of the University's first master's graduates. He placed an emphasis on international education at a time when people of the Joplin area and the United States were rapidly moving into a global economy.

His quarter-century tenure is a feat in and of itself. At the time of his retirement, The Chronicle of Higher Education reported that only 5.8 percent of college and university presidents serve 16 to 20 years, and only 3.8 percent serve 21 or more. The average is five years at the same institution.

A native of Chile, León came equipped with an international perspective in college leadership. Raised in the northern port city of Iquique, his interest in American culture as a youth eventually led him to major in English at Santiago's Universidad Technica.

León's efforts as a student earned him a degree in 1963, while his abilities as a track and field athlete helped him claim three national titles, making him one of his country's top distance runners. Through a



*Former University President Julio León speaks at a reception after the Missouri Southern International Piano Competition Grand Finale concert on March 5, 2009, in Joplin, Missouri.*

contact in the United States, León landed a track scholarship to attend college in Odessa, Texas, in 1964.

Although an injury prematurely ended his running career, he continued his education at Oklahoma Baptist University and at the University of North Texas, where he received his master of business administration degree in 1968. He later earned a doctorate in business administration from the University of Arkansas.

León came to Missouri Southern in 1969 as an assistant professor of business administration. He was promoted to associate professor in 1973 and eventually became a full professor and dean of the school of business administration. He was named president in December 1982.

In the community, León has served on the board of directors for the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce and the United Way. Active on the national education scene, he was a member of the board

of directors of the American Council of Education, which consists of about 1,800 accredited, degree-granting public and private colleges and universities and other education-related organizations.

His accomplishments include serving as chair of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, one of the largest higher education organizations in the United States, which operates under the ACE umbrella. He also is a member of the Board of Empire District Electric Co.

León first proposed the concept of international education as a distinctive part of the college's mission in 1990. Southern was one of eight institutions selected to participate in the Promising Practices program sponsored by the American Council on Education and Carnegie Corp. of New York.

He also guided the development of the University's online distance learning program that offers complete bachelor's degrees over the Internet and reaches students around the globe.

His wife, Vivian, was one of the guiding forces behind the Missouri Southern International Piano Competition, which held 12 weeklong competitions during her tenure. The competition drew contestants from more than 50 nations.

The 12th Missouri Southern International Piano Competition, held April 21-26, 2008, was the final competition held under the auspices of MSIPC.

"Together, we have written many chapters that I have confidence will encourage and inspire generations to come to seek the benefits of a higher education right here," León said upon his retirement. "But, it is time for me and the University to write new chapters."

As a new chapter begins and pages are turned, the Missouri Southern community wishes the best for Julio and Vivian León, two instrumental forces in the development of Missouri Southern State University. **E**

— Stephen E. Smith, '77



# MSIPC takes final bow with a touch of class

**A**fter 22 years, the Missouri Southern International Piano competition and its guiding force have taken their final bows.

The competition, a biennial fixture at the University, ended its run with a Gala Finale Concert by 2008 MSIPC winner Avan Yu on March 5, 2009, in the Taylor Performing Arts Center. MSIPC Director Vivian León, '88, had announced earlier that she would be retiring after the event.

León said serving as MSIPC director has been a privilege.

"I will always be grateful for the support and assistance from the community in providing the funding, the in-kind donations and the volunteers that allowed MSIPC to bring music of the highest caliber to our citizens and to area schools during the past 20 years," she said. "It was an honor and a privilege for me to have the opportunity to bring outstanding talents from all over the world to southwest Missouri. As a result, MSIPC succeeded in bringing attention to Missouri Southern, Joplin and the state."

León said the concert was a fitting way to end the competition because of the performer.

"Avan Yu is one of the most outstand-



Photos by John Hacker

*Above, former University President Julio León, MSIPC Director Vivian León and 2008 MSIPC Champion Avan Yu attend an after-the-concert event on March 5, 2009. Below, Avan Yu performs in the competition's grand finale concert in Taylor Performing Arts Center at MSSU.*

ing winners that we have had in the past 20 years," she said. "He was the only competitor that won the junior division and returned to claim the Grand Prize for the senior division. His return included not only the Grand Finale concert with the Southern Symphony, but a weeklong residency where he performed for thousands of school children in the area.

"He really connected with the children and did a fantastic job in presenting to them how wonderful classical music is. He is an exceptional talent."

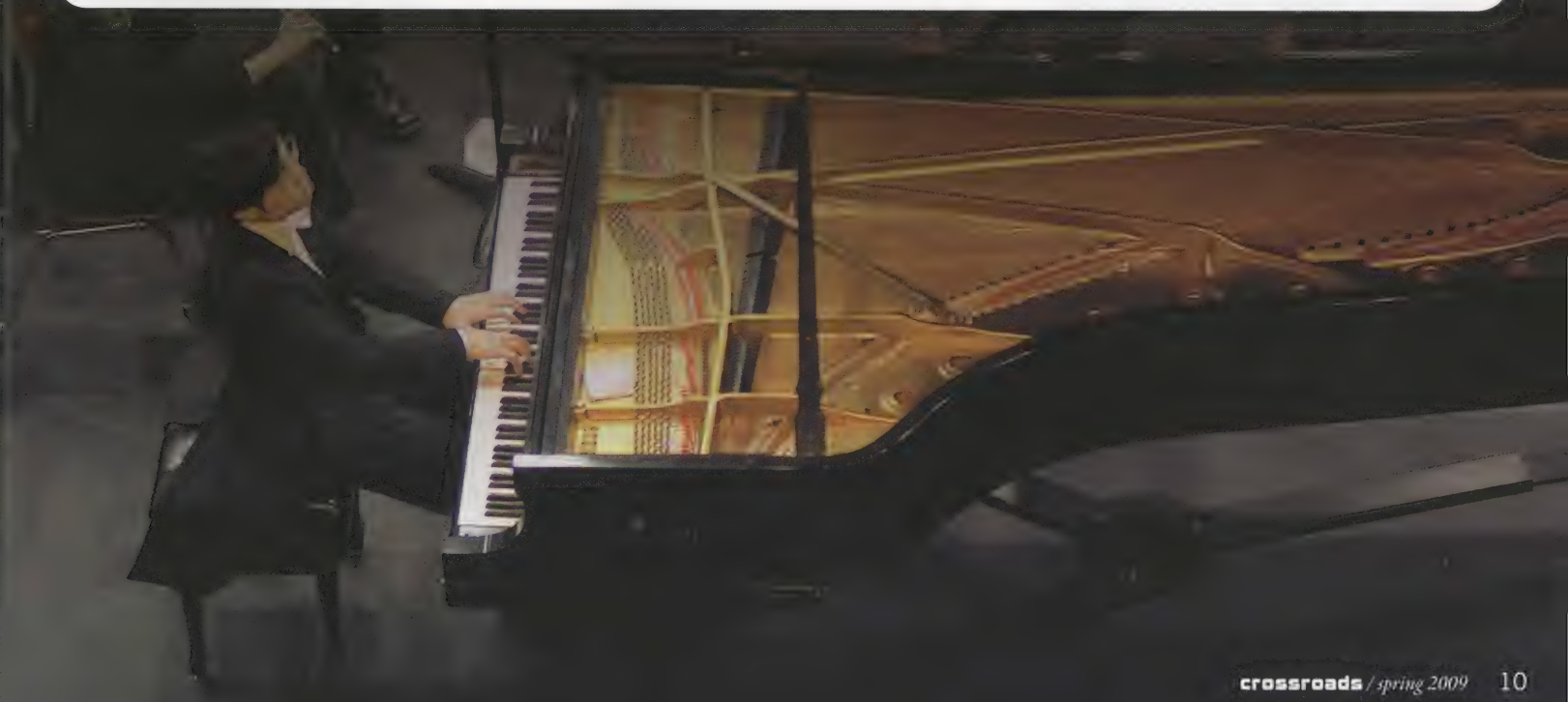
León said she has hopes for the legacy of the MSIPC.

"I wish that our community will make

a true effort in supporting and advocating for the arts," she said. "I especially wish that our children will continue to be exposed to fine music and learn the value of hard work and dedication in the pursuit of excellence."

The first Missouri Southern International Piano Competition was presented by Southern in 1987. Its goal was to bring to the citizens of the area a world-class music event that would promote the appreciation of fine music and be beneficial to the University, the region and talented pianists from around the world. It has been presented every two years since 1988. **C**

— T.R. Hanrahan





# International Arrivals

**E**ver travel to a country where you do not know the language, customs and traditions of the people who live there? You also didn't know anybody in that country, have your own mode of transportation, and hundreds of miles of land or ocean separated you from your family? These challenges met eight international students who came to Missouri Southern. In fall 2008, 78 international students from about 30 different countries and every inhabitable continent traveled to Southern to continue their educations. These students share why they left their comfort zones and traveled around the world to be a part of our University.

## Guatemala

Beverly  
Grau



**Beverly Grau** graduates in May 2009 with a degree in international studies. She read about Missouri Southern online. She liked the International Mission, location and the school's good reviews.

"The issue of no transportation was a tough one for me," Grau said. "It was hard to get things done like grocery shopping and going to the post office. The food was really hard to get used to as well because a lot of the meat here is processed."

She liked meeting other students with different nationalities at Southern.

"I want to learn as much as I can about different cultures," Grau said. "I don't think I would be able to go to as many countries as the nationalities that are



represented here, so it is nice that I get to know the students and learn about them and their cultures all in one place."

In the future, she would like to work on water development projects to help bring needed water to different parts of the world.

## Germany

Maurice  
Cramer



**Maurice Cramer**, a double major in computer information systems and business with a minor in French, loves a challenge. He has worked with computers since he was 6 years old and hopes to pursue a management position in the computer field.

"I knew that if I came to America and was able to speak English fluently, then I would have a better chance of getting a job later on," Cramer said. "America is also big on computer technology, and computer language terms are pretty general throughout the world."

The language barrier was a small challenge for Cramer, who could understand people if they didn't speak too quickly. A greater challenge was "losing his German self."

"I want to always remember my culture, language and where I am from," he



Story by  
Nyssa Kirkpatrick, '09  
Photos by  
Jessi Youngblood, '09

said. "Like walking, for instance, I don't want to get lazy; I want to walk places instead of driving. In Germany, we walk everywhere and take the stairs and not the elevator."





**Julien LaFay** first came to Missouri Southern as an exchange student for a year and decided to stay and finish his degree in marketing. He graduates in May 2009.

"I wanted an American degree from the beginning because it enables you to be more competitive in the business world, having that kind of experience outside of your own country," LaFay said.

"I hope to work with some kind of business in green marketing after grad school, so it will be interesting to see how American companies are going to have to adapt to the new environmental standards in the future."

One of his greatest challenges was overcoming the loneliness he felt being so far from his friends and loved ones, but once he started meeting other students during orientation week and through the International Club, making friends was no longer a problem.

"People are so friendly here," he said.

"In France, if you are standing in line at a grocery store, no one will talk to each other; they just stand there and wait. Here, people will talk to each other all the time, no matter where they are, and it's not unusual."



**Ruth Eichinger** plans to graduate in 2012, with a major in biochemistry and a minor in philosophy.

"The International Mission was a big factor in the reason I chose to come to MSSU," she said. "I also received the presidential scholarship, and that helped out a lot. Missouri Southern is an easier school to get into than say, one in California or New York, plus, those schools are very expensive."

Besides getting her degree, she hopes to learn a few other things.

"I want to learn a lot about other cultures, and not just the American students I meet here, but the international



students as well," Eichinger said. "I want to gain more perspective and hopefully do another exchange semester, maybe in Japan. The Asian culture is so different than the Western."

She likes many things about Southern, but one of the greatest is student and teacher relationships.

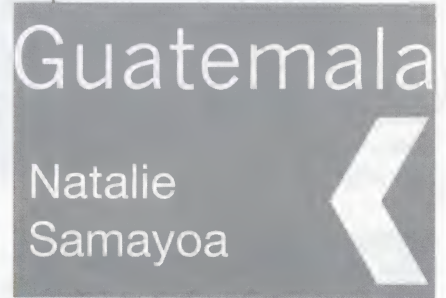
"In Austria, it is different because you have to be very respectful to your teachers, and you respect them here, but it is a different kind," Eichinger said. "Here, the teachers are like mentors to the students. You don't have to be afraid to ask questions, and it is easy to get to know them and grow closer to them."



**Natalie Samayoa** found out about Missouri Southern on the Internet. She decided to come here after reading the school's International Mission and felt it was the right place for her.

"I loved the idea of getting to travel; I also looked at OSU (Oklahoma State University), but they didn't have the programs that I wanted to take," Samayoa said. "I wanted to become more globally aware."

She has been here for a year and plans to stay until she graduates in May



2011. Samayoa is double majoring in international business and biochemistry and hopes to work for an international biotechnology company.

"The biggest challenge for me was all of the paperwork that I had to fill out," she said. "It takes a lot of time and is kind of a hassle. I never really had a problem with the language or culture because I have family that lives in Texas."

A smaller challenge is familiar to most college students: a busy schedule.





**Siripong "Pump" Teerathamrong**, an industrial engineering technology major, graduates in May 2010. He attended Fort Osage High School in Independence, Missouri, as an exchange student, and lived with a host family, Jim and Kristine Carlson. Jim is a 1991 Missouri Southern alumnus.

Teerathamrong also received the presidential scholarship.

"Missouri Southern was a good price, especially with the scholarship," he said.

"Another deciding factor was the city of Joplin. It is not too small and not too big; it is a good size. I came from a big city in Thailand where there were lots of people around all the time, so it was something I had to get used to at first."

Teerathamrong hopes to be able to work for a big reliable company someday where he will make a lot of money, have a nice house, a family and pursue a master's degree. Until then, he is enjoying his time at Southern.

"The best thing about going to school in America is all of the opportunity," he said. "You have so much freedom in what classes you can take and what you want to do."



**Luis Alfonso Luna Gutiérrez**, who graduated in December 2008, received a degree in economics and finance. He had previously received his industrial engineering degree in Nicaragua.

Gutiérrez heard about Southern in a different way than most.

Working as a volunteer for a non-profit organization in Nicaragua, he had translated for a family who wanted to adopt a baby.

The family offered for him to go to America with them and pay for his school.

"I thought they were kidding, but



then my host father came back with all of the paperwork to fill out to come to America," Gutiérrez said.

"He recommended that I go to school at MSSU."

Gutiérrez's ideal job is to work at a company where employees can move up the career ladder.

"If I have to start out making coffee, I'll do it, as long as I am able to build up my career from there," he said.

What was the greatest challenge at Southern?

"I cannot stand the cold weather!" he said.



**Kayoko Sento** graduated in December 2008 with a degree in international business. She attended Coffeyville Community College in Kansas before becoming a Missouri Southern student in January 2005. She had heard from a friend that Southern was the best school for international activity in the central part of the states. She was also able to obtain a scholarship for her good grades.

"Some of my challenges have been learning the language and making 'real' friends," Sento said. "I will never

forget the hardest thing for me to do when I first arrived was ordering a Subway sandwich because there were so many choices, and it was very confusing."

Like other international students, Sento wanted to "open her eyes wide" with this experience and learn about a foreign country.

"The friendships that I have made with students and teachers are the best thing about going to school here," she said. "I believe they will be lifelong relationships."

**"The best thing about going to school in America is all of the opportunity."**

**Siripong "Pump" Teerathamrong**

*Industrial engineering technology major from Thailand*





# Cultures meld each fall at Southern

Students at Missouri Southern State University experience the world in a unique way. The University designates the fall semester of every academic year to the study of one country or region of the world.



This innovative approach introduces students to at least four different cultures during a typical undergraduate education, even if they don't have an opportunity to study abroad with the many programs offered at MSSU.

Fall 2008 was the Germany Semester, with a record 65 lectures, cultural events, concerts and films offered on campus.

The most popular event was a September 22 concert by an eclectic pop band from Berlin called 17 Hippies. Almost 1,000 students, faculty and community residents packed the Taylor Performing Arts Center for a blend of Eastern melodies, Balkan rhythms, French chanson and even a couple of Cajun tunes.

The 2008 Gockel International Symposium, always the centerpiece of the themed semester, brought the ranking German official in the Midwest to campus on October 28. Wolfgang Drautz, the German Consul General in Chicago, spoke about the transatlantic relationship between the United States and Germany. A week earlier, MSSU welcomed the president of its partner university in Bavaria, the Ansbach

University of Applied Sciences, who gave a presentation on the reforms in German higher education.

Planning is under way for the Fall 2009 Canada Semester.

While many Americans may take our neighbor to the north for granted, it is important to note that Canada is the United States' largest trading partner and that the two nations share the longest secure border in the world. Canada provides more oil, gas, electricity and uranium than any other country to the U.S., and 7.1 million U.S. jobs are supported by trade with Canada.

Visit [www.mssu.edu/canada](http://www.mssu.edu/canada) for more on the Canada Semester.

— Dr. Chad Stebbins, '82, Director  
Institute of International Studies

## GERMANY SEMESTER BY THE NUMBERS

65 Events

10,327 In attendance

### Best-Attended Events

950 17 Hippies concert

673 Southern Theatre  
production of "Gas"  
(five-night run)

980 Jana Hensel, author  
of "After the Wall"  
(three talks)

820 Gockel International  
Symposium

350 German beer talk



An eclectic pop band from Berlin, called 17 Hippies, proves to be a favorite Germany Semester event. Almost 1,000 students, faculty and local residents filed into Taylor Performing Arts Center to see the band perform.



## SOBA alumni excel beyond graduation

**T**he Robert W. Plaster School of Business Administration continues to offer outstanding educational opportunities.

We accomplish our mission of creating global business leaders through superior education offered by high-quality faculty. This is shown in our teaching evaluation results from the IDEA Center. In measures of progress on objectives and teaching, our faculty score higher than national averages. We also score unusually high as excellent teachers and in having excellent courses.

SOBA faculty give our students the opportunity to prepare for a number of professional certifications. The accounting department has achieved two years in a row of CPA pass rates that are among the highest in the region. The finance department offers training for the Certified Financial Manager designation. The management department prepares students for the Professional in Human Resources certification. In addition, the international business program allows students to sit for the Global Business Professional Certification.

The faculty of the Plaster School of Business provide not only a high-quality education, but they are also engaged in a number of service activities. The finance and international business department secured a USAID grant that brought seven students from the University of Quisqueya in Haiti to MSSU. These students will receive their degrees in finance and economics and then return to Haiti to help in the country's economic development. Nanette Philibert has

her students engage in service activities every semester. Dr. Philibert's students supported Threads of Hope, an organization in Lima, Peru, that helps women produce fiber art.

The results of our efforts can be seen in the accomplishments of our alumni. Five of the Plaster School of Business alumni were recognized by the Joplin Business Journal in the 40 Under 40 award ceremony. Brandon Brown, a 1996 accounting graduate, has been named the deputy chief financial officer at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama. Steve Duff, a 1981 marketing-management major, is donating his time and expertise to help build clinics in the Philippines. Andy Thomas, another 1981 marketing-management major, is now recognized as one of the most successful artists in the country. Kevin Williams, a 1987 accounting graduate and CFO of Jack Henry, was recognized as MSSU's 2007-2008 Outstanding Alumnus.

The Robert W. Plaster School of Business has and will continue to support the economic development of the four-state region. Our Small Business and Technology Development Center, Heartland Procurement Technical Assistance Center, and entrepreneurship program offer business development support from idea generation through growth and contracting.

The Robert W. Plaster School of Business Administration has been the center of economic development in the region. We will continue to play this role throughout these troubling economic times.

— Dr. Brad Kleindl, Dean  
Robert W. Plaster School of Business Administration

*From left, Claude Elisma, dean of the UniQ Faculty of Economic and Administrative Sciences; Nii Adote Abrahams, head of MSSU Department of Finance, Economics, and International Business; Jean-Bruner Clotaire, coordinator of the UniQ Faculty of Economic and Administrative Sciences; and J. Chris Moos, assistant professor, international business, tour the campus last October during a development meeting between Southern and the University of Quisqueya in Haiti.*

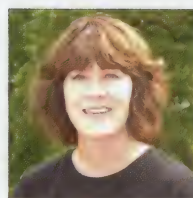




# Business notes ...



Dr. Brian Nichols



Dr. Nanette Philibert



Dr. Beverly Block

## Program development

The Robert W. Plaster School of Business Administration is offering an online master of business administration in conjunction with Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville. "Many of our students have asked for the ability to continue their education here," said Dr. Carla Walter, program director. "They like being part of Missouri Southern. It's exciting for us to be able to grow this program."

The cooperative master's degree combines an online program with teaching responsibilities shared between the two institutions. In addition to the new MBA, a minor in arts, entertainment and tourism marketing is in the works.

## Practical money skills

The Robert W. Plaster School of Business Administration incorporated a money management program, Goodmoneyhabits.com, into the curriculum of the economics core course.

Regardless of their major, all Southern students must study money management modules in addition to English composition, literature and other core requirements.

James Gray, professor of management, said the school has taken responsibility to prepare graduates to manage their money.

"One of the major obstacles facing college students today is rising debt caused by educational costs and credit cards," he said. "Personal finance is something we can all use. It teaches students to think with facts, not with emotion."

## Global social, economic responsibility

Higher Education for Development, Washington, D.C., awarded \$552,000 to The Robert W. Plaster School of Business Administration with funding support by the U.S. Agency for International Development for a partnership with University of Quisqueya in Haiti. The purpose is to focus on excellence in accounting and finance.

The award, which is part of the USAID's continuing efforts to expand the role and impact of U.S. and international higher

education institutions in worldwide social and economic development, will cover a period of three years. The Missouri Southern partnership is designed to contribute to the economic renewal of Haiti by using the expertise of the university's SOBA faculty to strengthen the teaching of business at University of Quisqueya, Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

The partnership will develop new instructional modules that increase the accounting program's relevance to Haiti's work force needs. SOBA will also focus on community work-force development and entrepreneurship, especially for Haitian women.

## Kleindl speaks at international forum

The power of the Internet and global relationships allowed Dr. Brad Kleindl, dean of the MSSU Robert W. Plaster School of Business Administration, to present a teleconference presentation for the International IT Forum in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia, last fall.

The forum was devoted to the 15th anniversary of the day of Russian Federation Constitution adoption and 60th anniversary of General Declaration of Human Rights.

Kleindl's presentation was titled "E-Commerce to E-Innovation, Fostering a Digitally Mediated Life." This was the second time he made a presentation at this conference. The first time was during a visit to the Khanty-Mansiysk region to visit Yugra State University. The regional government for Khanty-Mansiysk also has translated Kleindl's high school textbook, *E-Commerce Marketing*, into Russian.

The objective of the conference is to exchange the experience in the sphere of implementation and usage of up-to-date IT solutions, development, and strengthening of international and interregional relations, working-out of recommendations to improve the level of regional information.

## Faculty spotlight

J. Chris Moos, assistant professor of international business, achieved NASBITE

International designation as a certified global business professional. Moos is one of approximately 371 corporate, government and academic professionals in the U.S. to earn the CGBP designation, a benchmark for competency in global commerce.

Dr. Brian Nichols, '93, assistant professor of finance and economics, was awarded the 2008 Missouri Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching for Missouri Southern.

Dr. Nanette Philibert, assistant professor of management, was recently awarded certification as a Global Professional in Human Resources. She is one of 733 GPHRs in the U.S. and 93 internationally.

Dr. Beverly Block, professor of marketing, was named a "Woman of Distinction" by the Joplin Business Journal in 2008.

Dr. Scott Cragin, associate professor of marketing, was named 2008 Missouri Delta Epsilon Chi Adviser of the Year. Delta Epsilon Chi is the collegiate division of DECA.

## Graduates pass financial exam

Adrienne Jackson and Garrett Taylor, '06, graduates of the Missouri Southern State University Certified Financial Planner program, passed the CFP® certification examination in November 2008.

The designation is conferred by the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards. To receive authorization to use the CFP® designation, candidates must meet education, experience and ethics requirements, and pass a 10-hour exam.

Candidates must have a bachelor's degree or equivalent from an accredited university to attain the certification. Southern is registered by the Certified Financial Planner board to offer an online CFP® certificate program in addition to its undergraduate finance program. Southern graduates have performed well on the certification exam compared to the national average, said Dr. Richard Rawlins, director of the CFP® program at Southern.

The University's cumulative pass rate on the exam is 67 percent, compared to the national average of about 50 percent.

— Kim Gray and staff reports



## New faces fill halls in 2008-2009

The changes at Missouri Southern this past year have seen a new president, academic vice president and assistant academic vice president. But not all the changes have taken place at the top.



The school of arts and sciences, the largest school on campus, has witnessed a significant change in appearance as well.

Please allow me to introduce to you some of the new faces and new assignments that have occurred as well as ask you to join me in wishing those who have left a fond farewell.

With the promotion of Dr. John Messick from dean of arts and sciences to academic vice president, I was selected for the position of interim dean of arts and sciences. I arrived at MSSU in 1985 and served as the department head of social science from 1995 to 2008.

Five new department heads were appointed in 2008 in arts and sciences.

Frank Pishkur, art, replaced Nick Kyle. Pishkur came to MSSU in 2005. Dr. Sherman Hou, foreign languages, replaced Dr. Pedro Talavera-Iberra, who chose to return to the classroom. Hou has been at MSSU since 1996. Dr. Jeff Macomber, music, replaced Bud Clark, who has returned to full-time teaching. Macomber has been with Southern since 2002. Steve Wagner, social science, has assumed department head of social science. Wagner has been at MSSU since 2000. Dr. Jim Lile, theatre, replaces Dr. Jay Fields.

Lile has been at Southern since 2004.

Several new, or returning, faculty are strolling the halls. Art hired Dr. Steven Labadessa (painting and drawing), Mark Thomas (graphics design) and Scott Murray (sculpture). Foreign Languages has hired Dr. José O. Alvarez (Spanish), Vladimir Grishin (Russian), and Sara Mourad (Arabic). Grishin and Mourad are Fulbright Scholars. Social science hired Dr. Robert Markman (U.S. history) and Dr. Norton Wheeler (Asian history).

As one might expect, when faculty retire it affects us all in a profound manner.

In summer 2008, two faculty, whose time on campus meant so much to us in arts and sciences and to many of you as well, retired. Nick Kyle retired after serving as the art department head. Dr. Jay Fields also chose to retire in summer 2008 after serving as theatre department head. Both can be seen enjoying life around Joplin and Carthage.

As always, the activity in the various departments is at a fever pitch.

Behind the scenes new programs and degrees are being developed, and international travel opportunities are being planned.

I would encourage alumni to keep in contact with the departments you graduated from, as well as the University in general, and consider being part of what the future has to offer. After all, you are part of the reason we are here, and we would like to keep you involved.

— Dr. Richard Miller, Interim Dean  
School of Arts and Sciences

### WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

#### Have a favorite memory?

Want to share what Missouri Southern meant to you? Have some thoughts about who we are and what we do? Have any stories about Southern during historic times? Willing to participate in an Oral History Program?

**Write or tell: YOUR STORY.**

**Help tell: OUR STORY.**

**Add:** To Southern's history.

**For information:** Contact Dr.

Virginia Laas, MSSU Social Science Department, 3950 E. Newman Road, Joplin, MO 64801, or call 417-625-9793.





# Dental health goes the distance

Increasing access to preventive oral health care in the rural areas of the state was the primary goal behind the development of the new dental hygiene distance programs.



Missouri Southern's rich history of quality distance programming combined with the high success rate of dental hygiene graduates on national and regional licensing examinations made it a natural to meet the challenge given by the Missouri Dental Association. The Missouri Dental Association's challenge was to develop distance education models to relieve the shortage of dental hygienists in the rural regions of the state.

Data from the Missouri Dental Board and the Department of Economic Development was analyzed, identifying both the central and southeast regions as two of the highest shortage areas in the state. Missouri Southern was fortunate to find educational partners to provide space for offices, classrooms and a dental clinic at Southeast Missouri State University-Sikeston campus and the Rolla Technical Institute.

Missouri Southern met this challenge by accepting its first distance classes in fall 2007. The program curriculum is delivered by interactive television between Joplin, Rolla and Sikeston with dedicated clinics built at our partnering institution locations for the pre-clinical and clinical education component. The program expansion also included the addition of a new department head, four new faculty and two secretaries to support the programs. The new faces of Missouri Southern at our distance campuses

are Deborah Gerecke, department head for dental programs; Karen Donaldson and Gail Taubel at Rolla; with Karen Jacobs and Sheila Weathers at Sikeston. The department now has 10 full-time faculty members to support 100 students.

The shortage of dental hygienists we are experiencing in Missouri is mirrored all across the country.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects employment of dental hygienists is expected to grow by 30 percent through 2016, much faster than the average for all occupations. This projected growth ranks dental hygienists among the fastest growing occupations, in response to increasing demand for dental care and the greater use of hygienists.

The demand for dental services will continue to grow. Population growth and greater retention of natural teeth of older adults will stimulate the demand for dental hygienists.

To meet this demand, facilities that provide dental care, particularly dentists' offices, will increasingly employ dental hygienists and more hygienists per office to perform services that have been performed by dentists in the past. State regulatory agencies are expanding the scope of practice settings to include public health, schools and long term care facilities, which will only magnify the demand for dental hygienists.

As you can see, change is constant for this health care profession, and the dental hygiene department is proud to continue to meet the needs of the constituencies we serve.

— Dr. Tia Strait, '85 & '93, Dean  
School of Technology

*Jill Weeks works on Kayla Sneed during class in the dental hygiene clinic. The junior dental hygiene majors learn and practice dental procedures on each other to better understand both sides of their profession.*



Photo by Glenn Landberg



## Accreditation process ensures top teachers

During the period of October 4-8, 2008, the Missouri Southern State University Department of Teacher Education held its state and national accreditation visit



with the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education. The voluntary assessment process, which includes a site visit by an

accreditation team composed of members from each organization, affirms that the college and its teacher education programs meet the rigorous standards of the state and national professional organizations.

Accreditation is designed to ensure that teacher education programs produce teachers who meet the highest standards and who successfully help students learn. This process allows us to demonstrate that Missouri Southern is responding to the needs of teachers and students in today's classrooms. NCATE accreditation is a nationally recognized

*"NCATE accreditation is a nationally recognized benchmark that says our programs are achieving the highest professional standards."*

benchmark that says our programs are achieving the highest professional standards.

Dr. Deborah Pulliam, accreditation chair, said NCATE revises its standards every five years to incorporate the best practices and research.

"Institutions must adjust and demonstrate that their students have an in-depth knowledge of the subjects they will teach, that the college has partnerships with public schools, that resources — including technological resources — are adequate, and that professors model effective teaching practices," Pulliam said.

Dr. Al Cade, head of the department of teacher education, said the assessment looks at several areas at Missouri Southern.

"Among the areas emphasized by the national accreditation body are content and professional knowledge, skills, dispositions and practice in the classroom," Cade said.

He indicated that meeting the standards also helps students prepare for rigorous licensing requirements in many states.

"We're very pleased that our college, and university as a whole, has worked so hard to

demonstrate its commitment to education in the Midwest," Cade said.

The NCATE visit impacts much of the university. The preparation for, and involvement during the evaluation visit, was a comprehensive, university-wide effort requiring collaboration among faculty, staff and community partners. Examiners also spoke with other university faculty members outside of the department of teacher education to ensure that the candidates are receiving the content knowledge they need to go out and become effective teachers.

"To produce an effective teacher, all campus departments, responsible for teaching subject content, must align their curriculum to ensure that the teacher education candidates have the professional knowledge," Cade said.

For the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary accreditation process, the state authorizes the Missouri State Board of Education to establish standards and procedures by which institutions of higher education in Missouri will be evaluated for approval of their professional education programs. The MSBE has established the Missouri Standards for Teacher Education Programs for this purpose. The state board must approve every professional education unit in Missouri in order to recommend program completers for professional certification. Each program for certification also must comply with requirements established by the MSBE for required coursework and field experiences.

Now that the DESE and NCATE teams have made their on-site visit and observed the workings of the university, a written report will be given to the Missouri Southern School of Education and follow-up comments will be allowed.

The school of education will also be able to respond to any aspects of the visit, as detailed in the existing written report, that were not agreed upon by the university and the board of examiners.

All reports will then be sent to the respective governing boards for review, and the final decision for continuing accreditation will be handed down to Missouri Southern in summer 2009.

— Dr. Glenn Coltharp, Dean, School of Education



# Achievements, recognition spread Lion Pride

## Corley Auditorium dedicated

The auditorium in Missouri Southern's Webster Hall is officially the William Robert Corley Auditorium, in recognition of a major gift made by Corley, a longtime Joplin resident. A ceremony was held January 6, 2009, in Corley Auditorium.

The Missouri Southern Board of Governors announced the acceptance of a major gift to the University at its meeting in August 2008. The auditorium's new name has been used on an unofficial basis since that time.

Corley provided what Board of Governors Chair H. Dwight Douglas said was a seven-figure amount, for endowment of unrestricted scholarships for students.



## Lion flag hangs proudly in Iraq

Ray Harding, '73, a Lion standout quarterback on the 1972 championship team, recently returned home from serving at Camp Liberty, Baghdad, Iraq.

As command sergeant major of the 35th Engineer Brigade, a Missouri National Guard Unit, Harding secured a flag from Athletics Director Sallie Beard, '72. Harding felt it was important to get a flag from Missouri Southern to fly "over there, not just the Notre Dames and Michigan flags."

## Best of Show honors

*The Chart*, Missouri Southern's student newspaper, captured third place in the Best of Show competition November 2, 2008, at the Associated Collegiate Press-College Media Advisers national convention in Kansas City, Missouri.

"We are all excited about the award," said T.R. Hanrahan, *The Chart* publications manager. "This is the highest *The Chart* has placed in this competition since 2000, when the paper took second place."

The Best of Show competition is judged

during the convention weekend and includes newspapers from across the United States. Schools submit one issue published during the current school year. *The Chart* submitted the October 24, 2008, issue.

## Southern going green

The Sustainability Committee at Missouri Southern State University is one of three top winners in the "Going Green" awards presented by The Joplin Business Journal in February 2009.

The committee won for its campus sustainable tree plan, developed by Dr. Dorothy Bay and Dr. Scott Wells of the Missouri Southern Biology and Environmental Health Department, and implemented with assistance from Bob Harrington, '98, director of the MSSU Physical Plant, and Tim Frevert, a staff member of the Missouri Department of Conservation. More than 157 new trees have been planted on campus. Funding was made in part with donations from faculty and staff in spring 2008 along with a Federal Emergency Management Agency reimbursement for campus damage from the late 2007 ice storms.

The committee is working with personnel across campus to promote sustainable landscaping at MSSU.

A formal tree-planting ceremony of a white redbud tree on November 13, 2008, on the northeast side of Hearnes Hall, was the first step to replace the trees.

Missouri Southern's long-term vision is to create a campus arboretum to serve as an educational platform to promote botany, ecology and sustainability programs.

Also in February, Missouri Southern was awarded and is awaiting funds to begin a campus recycling program.

As the campus kicks off the official beginning of the Show-Me Recycling Program, the initial phase of the program includes collection of office paper and plastic bottles. Paper collection boxes will be located in each office and lab, with plastic bottle collection barrels set throughout campus.

For more, visit the group's Web site at [www.mssu.edu/socsci/sust/sustindex.htm](http://www.mssu.edu/socsci/sust/sustindex.htm).

## Forensics continues winning ways

In the open division of the Lincoln-Douglas debate, Missouri Southern senior Whitney Hart, a political science major from Lamar, Missouri, finished 4-0 in the preliminary rounds and was the top seed heading into the elimination rounds, where she was named state LD debate champion.

The speech and debate squad competed in the MAFA Missouri State Championships February 20 and 21, 2009, in Kansas City, Missouri.

Competing were 11 colleges and universities, which fielded 21 debaters in the Lincoln-Douglas debate division.

— Stephen E. Smith, '77

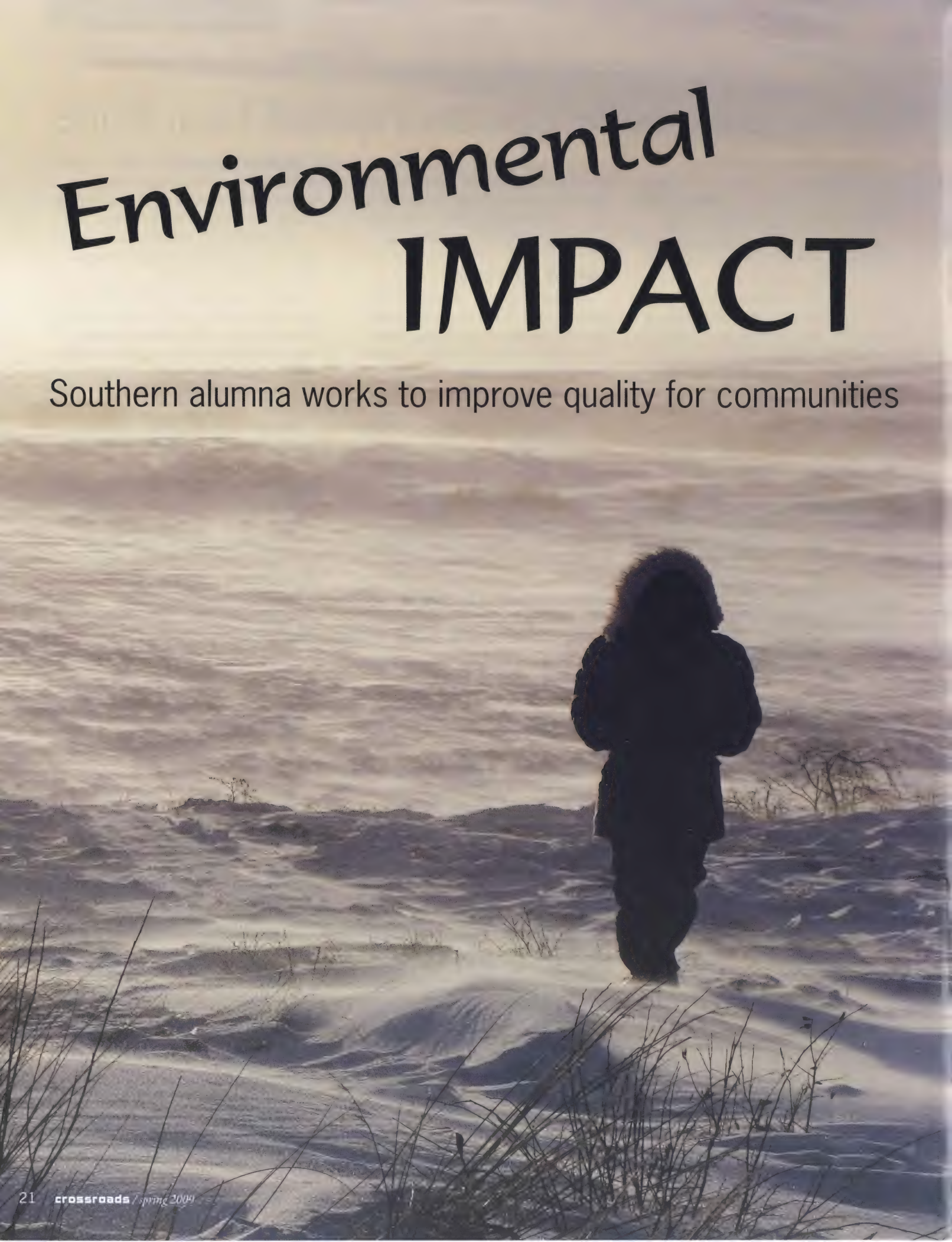


Scott Mackey, junior biology major, finishes planting a new tree last fall outside Hearnes Hall.



# Environmental IMPACT

Southern alumna works to improve quality for communities





Wyoming, Missouri, Montana, Alaska and now Maryland are the states Valerie Boswell, a MOSO '04 alum, has lived in for the past 10 years, and she is not about to settle down.



Boswell, the oldest of five siblings, lived in more cities than she was of age by the time she graduated high school in Evanston,

Wyoming. She came to Missouri Southern State University in 2001, where Dr. Michael Fletcher, associate professor of biology and environmental health, and Michael Kennedy, assistant professor of biology and environmental health, introduced her to environmental health.

"Dr. Fletcher really provokes a sense of wanting to do the best you can," Boswell, an active duty lieutenant junior grade in the U.S. Public Health Service, said in an e-mail interview.

"Everything I worked with him on I wanted to do my absolute best and be successful. It is great to have a professor like him to rely on for tough questions and answers. Mr. Kennedy did a good job of helping me to transition from biology to environmental health, and he explained to me the relevance of biology in the fields of public health and safety. He is a real advocate for the environmental health program."

Boswell's Southern experiences gave her the tools she needed to continue with graduate studies.

"The Environmental Health Club taught us how to make an impact in the community," she said. "Not only did it

teach us the meaning of environmental health it also taught us how to develop great team building and leadership skills, the importance of being investigators and continually seeking knowledge, as well as how to give presentations. It also taught me that sometimes what you see isn't always what is going on. Half of my job now is working with the public.

"You have to be confident in what you are telling people and know how to provide scientifically sound recommendations."

Boswell also had an internship opportunity with the Joplin Health Department, where she conducted West Nile virus sampling.

"During Valerie's time as Environmental Health Club President, she organized EH students and faculty into doing a Girl Scout Science Badge Day, a Boy Scout Science Badge Day, recycling center assistance, Earth Day, hazardous waste cleanup, stream and roadside cleanup, and I have likely forgotten other events," Fletcher said. "Valerie encouraged us all to do more for the community environmental health than we thought possible."

After graduating from MSSU with a bachelor of science in environmental health and a minor in biology, Boswell attended graduate school to study industrial hygiene at Montana Tech.

After one semester, she was called to active duty for the U.S. Public Health Service in Bethel, Alaska, where she became a field environmental health officer in February 2005, and was then recruited to become the director of safety and security for the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corp. in December 2007. Boswell found out about

this program through a Public Health Service presentation in Fletcher's class.

Boswell's work as an EH officer included showing adults and children in the rural Alaskan villages hygiene practices and safety; working as a lay vaccinator to administer rabies vaccinations to village pets and sled dogs, submitting brain tissue from suspected animals for diagnostic testing, and completing human exposure investigations; surveying rural drinking water systems; teaching classes that offered certifications for operators of community drinking water and wastewater systems; and participating in the sampling of Alaskan villages for Avian influenza. She was also a council member for the Bethel Big Brothers Big Sisters Corp.

With the guidance of Public Health Service Commander Keith Cook, Boswell applied and was accepted to the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Rockville, Maryland, to receive a master's in public health, a one-year accelerated program that accepts two people from the Indian Health Service every two years.

The IHS, affiliated with the USPHS, sponsors Boswell's program and pays for her education.

"Keith introduced and encouraged me to apply to USUHS, regardless of the fact that I was and am a junior officer with limited experience in institution environmental health in health care — which is the direction I am headed after completing the MPH program," Boswell said.

Boswell is set to graduate in June and hopes to give a Public Health Service presentation at MSSU in spring 2010. **C**

— Nyssa Kirkpatrick, '09



Facing page, Valerie Boswell's work took her to Alaska after graduating from Missouri Southern with a degree in environmental health. Above, Boswell takes a break from her work in Alaska to go fly fishing. Right, Boswell administers a rabies vaccination. Submitted photos





# Concrete Expansion

Construction yields opportunities for academics and recreation



Curb appeal takes on special meaning at Missouri Southern as two major projects transform the campus landscape to enhance the college experience for students. A health sciences building and an expansion and renovation to the Billingsly Student Center are the biggest construction projects since the addition of the Leggett & Platt Athletic Center in 1999.

Upon completion, the new buildings will add approximately 155,000 square feet of education, laboratory and recreation space.





Photos by Jessi Youngblood



Clockwise from above left, steel beams begin to rise on the health sciences building last fall; workers make adjustments to the gymnasium ceiling in the Beimdiek Student Recreation Center; outside view of the recreation center's south side; Fred G. Hughes Stadium sits east of the health sciences building; Rob Yust, '80, (left) and Bob Harrington, '98, stand on the suspended jogging track in the new gymnasium.





## Health Sciences Building



# 84,000

Approximate square feet of added space on campus.

# \$19 million

Approximate cost for the new facility.

### First Floor:

- Dental clinic
- Dental hygiene and kinesiology programs
- Classrooms, locker rooms and offices
- Animal labs

### Second Floor:

- Nursing program
- Psychology program

### Third Floor:

- Radiologic technology
- Respiratory therapy
- Medical technology
- Simulation lab

### Simulation lab:

# 1,400

 square feet of space

### Will include:

- Nursing station
- Student computers
- Simulated patients: three adults and one infant
- Birthing simulator

## Quality improvements

The ceremonial turn of the shovel in March 2008 recognized the generous efforts of Southern supporters, but work officially began on the new Beimdiek Student Recreation Center in February 2008.

In 2007, the late George S. Beimdiek, a Carthage, Missouri, businessman and insurance professional, donated a \$1 million boost for the center, which includes fitness, health and entertainment activity space. The new facility is attached to the west side of the Billingsly Student Center, which is receiving a makeover as part of the construction project.

The recreation center is a three-story facility that will include three full-size basketball courts, an elevated running-walking track, areas for fitness and weight machine equipment, two aerobic-dance studios and a 150-seat theater. Locker rooms, storage and offices are also components.

Once complete, green and gold will fill the addition.

"We've worked around our dominant colors, because this is Missouri Southern, and you want to have the Missouri Southern feel throughout the center," said Dr. Terri Agee, senior vice president. "We've infused a few more colors, and in the student health center, we've used a green and blue theme to achieve a feeling of uniqueness there."

The new Willcoxon Student Health Center, named in recognition of a generous donation by Dr. Robert and Dot Willcoxon of Joplin, will offer new and improved facilities for student health care. The clinic will be on the second floor of the recreation center.

The Beimdiek Student Recreation Center will serve as a catalyst to recruit students.

"That's going to be a showcase when they bring potential students on campus," said Rob Yust, '80, assistant vice president for business affairs. "That will probably be the first stop because it will be a very

attractive facility."

Renovations to Billingsly include new meeting rooms and offices on the third floor and a fresh look for the grand ballroom. The second-floor Lions' Den received a just-completed update, but it's what's occurring west of the campus food

*"There will be a lot of synergy in that building, with the recreation center, the wellness center ... it will be a great enhancement to campus life."*

court that will impress. Make-shift doors seal off the area where a new bookstore will show Lion pride.

A mall-like atmosphere includes a serpentine wall of glass encasing the bookstore, which will offer clothing and other items as well as purchase books.

The serpentine effect provides a seamless transition into the Beimdiek Student Recreation Center, where a wide staircase and three stories of glass windows overlook the University's soccer fields to the south.

Funding of the almost \$17 million project comes from donations and a 30-year bond. In fall 2008, students were assessed a \$150 fee per semester for the recreation center.

Agee and Yust said this type of center is a trend at campuses across the country.

"There will be a lot of synergy in that building with the recreation center, the wellness center, the bookstore, the food court — it will be a great enhancement to campus life," Agee said.

## Healthy outlook

In May 2008, work began on the health sciences building. The yet-to-be named facility will draw all allied health programs, currently scattered in four buildings on campus, under one roof. Kinesiology and psychology will also find a new home.

"We'll have state-of-the-art facilities and equipment for all of our health-related programs, and there is such a demand for these programs right now," Agee said. "It's definitely going to increase the quality of the education we provide, and hopefully we'll be able to expand our programs as well."

The \$19 million building, rising be-



tween Leggett & Platt Athletic Center and Taylor Performing Arts Center, received its funding from the state of Missouri's Lewis and Clark Discovery Initiative.

"We're grateful to the state, too, for giving us the capital money to build a facility that's going to be very helpful to the citizens of this state as we prepare more health

care professionals," University President Bruce Speck said.

The building will bolster and encourage

growth for programs, which are critical nationwide and in Joplin. The health care industry is expected to grow through 2020, said Dr. Tia Strait, '85 and '93, dean of the school of technology.

"I consider us the premier education facility for nursing and allied health education," Strait said. "With two large medical centers in the Joplin area, we could probably educate more if we had the space to do that. This will give us a chance to do some expansion. I think we'll also be able to do some continuing education type programs for the medical community."

The health programs will share resources, including computer labs, a parking lot for the on-campus dental hygiene clinic and a simulation lab.

The simulation lab will feature complex, cutting-edge artificial patients to simulate breathing, circulatory functions — including a heart attack — and having blood drawn.

"The simulation lab allows students to become competent in certain procedures prior to working on a real patient," Strait said.

Christine Eller, associate professor of nursing, works out of the basement of the Anderson Justice Center, where the nursing department moved from Kuhn Hall due to construction on campus.

"We'll have room for growth and more lab space," Eller said of the new health sciences building.

The dental hygiene program, which operates an on-campus clinic, will be

among the biggest fans. Its future home will include an extra 12,000 square feet on the first floor.

"Many people don't realize there is a dental clinic on campus," Strait said. "It will expand with a larger facility and accessibility."

Speck said the new building is a plus for Missouri Southern and the area.

"It makes sense to position ourselves so that we are part of the

*"It makes sense to position ourselves so that we are part of the progressive movement to make sure we have health care professionals for the future."*

progressive movement to make sure we have health care professionals for the future," Speck said. "We're looking at now a world-class facility. It will have the newest equipment."

## Bright future

The Beimdiek Student Recreation Center and Billingsly renovations are scheduled for completion in fall 2009, and the health sciences building has a spring 2010 completion date, Agee said.

The projects are a culmination of years of planning that began under Dr. Julio Leon, Southern's third president from 1982 to 2007. During that period, the campus grew by almost 500,000 square feet at a cost of more than \$50.5 million.

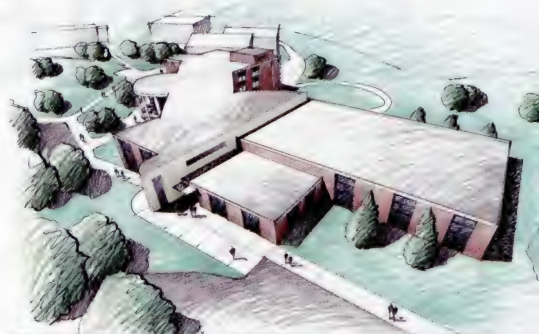
The building blocks of a strong foundation will continue to improve the appeal of Missouri Southern to future students and enhance the educational opportunities of those already pursuing their degrees.

Several individuals and corporations have made donations to help fund construction or offset operating expenses. Speck said naming opportunities are available, but alumni can also help by encouraging potential students to come to Missouri Southern.

"These buildings are going to add a great deal of luster to our campus," Speck said. "We are going to now have some buildings that we have not had in the past that are going to help our academic programs and the life of the campus." **C**

— Rhonda Clark, '00, and Andrew Ford, '10

## Beimdiek Student Recreation Center



# 71,000

Approximate square feet of added space on campus.

# \$17 million

Approximate cost for the new facility and renovation of the Billingsly Student Center.

### First Floor:

- Three full-size basketball courts
- Fitness and weight equipment
- Two aerobic-dance studios
- Locker rooms, storage and offices
- 150-seat theater

### Second Floor:

- Fitness and weight equipment
- Indoor suspended jogging track
- Willcoxon Student Health Center
- Bookstore
- Lions' Den
- Offices

### Third Floor:

- Student Services
- Grand ballroom
- Meeting rooms

### Thank you to our donors:

The late George S. Beimdiek  
 Dr. Robert and Dot Willcoxon  
 AT&T Foundation  
 Freeman Health System  
 The Lemons Charitable Trust  
 Pat and Carolyn Phelps  
 Dr. W. Russell Smith  
 List current as of March 1, 2009



# A healthy partnership

When Missouri Southern asked for donations for the football stadium in 2002, it didn't expect a quarter of a million dollars for the nursing program.

"We contacted Freeman to solicit help with turf," said Curt Betebenner, '75, director of the Missouri Southern Foundation.

"They weren't interested in turf but asked about the nursing program. So John Tiede, director of major gifts and planned giving at the Foundation, and I went to talk to them."

What resulted was Freeman Health System's plan to donate \$50,000 a



Becca Smith (left), junior nursing major, receives instruction from Abby Henderson, a Freeman Health System certified nurse midwife at Ozark Obstetrics and Gynecology in Joplin, Missouri. Freeman Health System partners with Missouri Southern's nursing program to provide clinical experience for the students. Freeman also helped the program by providing funds in 2003 for an additional nursing instructor.



year, starting in 2003, for five years to the Missouri Southern State University nursing program. As a result, another faculty member was hired and 10 more students were accepted into the program.

"John Tiede called and told me that this happened, and I was elated," said Dr. Tia Strait, '85 and '93, dean of the school of technology. "It was nice not to have to ask for this."

Gary Duncan, president and CEO of Freeman Health System, said the idea for the donation came about because of the shortage of nurses in the area. Freeman began to look at what kept schools from graduating more nursing students.

Strait said at Missouri Southern, the No. 1 cost in the health program is human resources due to the requirement of a 1-to-10 or 1-to-5 faculty-to-student ratio for the nursing program.

"When Freeman decided to fund \$50,000 a year for faculty, the number of students in the program was increased from 41 to 51," she said.

Strait said the donation came at a time when the University needed to increase the number of graduates to help meet the needs of area medical centers.

"We thought if we provided for a new instructor, it would benefit us, them and the community," said K'Alice Breinig, Freeman's chief clinical officer for 29 years until her retirement in October 2008.

As for the nursing shortage, Breinig said aging baby boomers are a factor, and the shortage will worsen as that group matures. She said Freeman is doing better with the shortage of nurses than other hospitals, but the shortage is one reason the partnership with Southern is critical.

Duncan sees that partnership continuing into at least the immediate future. He said the evaluation that occurred for the renewal to take place was of the students in clinical rotations at Freeman.

"I think Southern has done a very good job in that their students' pass rate on the boards has been excellent," he said.

Duncan said Freeman has been pleased with the caliber of students from Southern. He said the partnership creates an incentive for Southern to increase class numbers.

## Nursing facts

► Nursing is one of the most selective programs at Missouri Southern.

► Southern's nursing program will increase from 51 to 61 students in the fall 2009 semester.

► The program has a 100 percent pass rate on the first writing of the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses. The Missouri State Board of Nursing set the standard for nursing schools to have a pass rate of 80 percent for this exam.

► Not all students accepted into the nursing program graduate with a nursing degree.

► The attrition (loss rate) in nursing programs is typically 10 to 30 percent. Reasons students leave the program include academics, personal issues, or discovering, during the clinical rotations, that nursing is not the profession for them.

Source: Dr. Tia Strait, '85 & '93, Dean, School of Technology

He said this has happened at Missouri Southern.

"I think we've been able to solve problems other places haven't," he said.

Southern students, dressed in white scrubs, can be seen walking the halls of Freeman's hospital and clinics in Joplin.

"We depend on medical centers to educate students on clinical skills," Strait said. "Without that kind of partnership, we would not be able to provide all the quality education the students need. The medical centers are an intricate part of the educational process for our nursing students."

Ashley Roehrs, senior nursing major, began clinicals as a junior. Students learn in classroom labs how to start IVs and catheters, as well as other nursing skills, and once approved, they then do the procedures in a clinical setting.

"At first, we were basically just taking

## New commitment

Freeman Health System's generosity to Missouri Southern continued in 2008 with a 10-year commitment to the new Beindiek Student Recreation Center.

Freeman will donate \$50,000 a year for a total of \$500,000 toward the new center, said John Tiede, director of major gifts and planned giving with the Missouri Southern Foundation.

vitals, giving bed baths and talking to the patients," Roehrs said. "(Toward the end of the semester) we had an entire list of things that we can do to fill our day."

It wasn't easy learning.

"Honestly, I didn't realize that it was going to be this tough," she said. "You get to view and work with a variety of different people, and that's very beneficial to both the career and personal experience."


Regardless of how busy her days were at Freeman, her clinical experience was valuable.

"Clinicals help make everything that we are learning reality," Roehrs said. "We get to see what we are learning about in class. I think it's easier to understand certain diseases if you are given a chance to work with a client that has one of them."

Students don't spend their days alone at the hospital; Freeman nurses guide and teach them along the way.

Duncan, who often rides the shuttle back to the employee parking with students, enjoys seeing the future nurses at Freeman.

"It's kind of fun when you catch them, particularly early when they're in a rotation, coming off and you hear them talking about, 'Hey, I took care of this today,' and 'I did this today,'" he said.

"It's neat because there's an excitement among the nursing students that I find refreshing. I mean, I think people are only in nursing that want to be in nursing, and it's really reflected in the Southern students." 

— Hallie Hocker, '08

*Editor's note: Portions of this article appeared in The Chart, Southern's student newspaper.*





# *No place like home:*

**H**omecoming brings out the Lion spirit every fall with a full week of exciting activities and favorite campus traditions. From new students who are just getting involved on campus, to alumni who keep the tradition and Missouri Southern Lion spirit alive, Homecoming is an exciting time. Thank you to all who returned to make Homecoming 2008 so memorable. Lion Pride was never more evident, and this year's event was truly special.

In 2008, we recognized one deserving

alumnus at the Alumni Awards reception and the Lion Pride Brunch. Outstanding Alumnus for 2008 was Jack Brannan. Also recognized were the two Lion-Hearted recipients — Jim Frazier and Ruth Kolpin-Rubison.

**Jack Brannan, '54**, spent almost 20 years as a news correspondent, editor and management executive with United Press International. He joined UPI in Oklahoma City after finishing college and two years of Army duty. He later managed

UPI's Kansas City bureau, then worked as a White House and U.S. State Department correspondent in Washington, D.C., specializing in Latin American diplomatic affairs and U.S. foreign policy during the early months of the Johnson administration.

In 1965, Brannan was named news editor and chief correspondent at UPI's South American headquarters in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He later was based in Caracas, Venezuela, as general manager of UPI's Caribbean division.



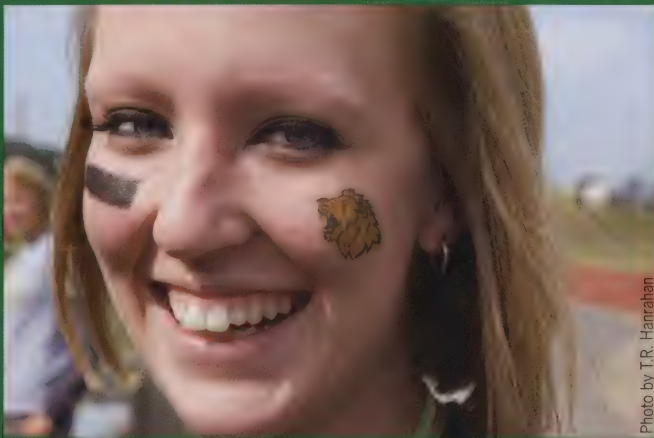


Photo by T.R. Hamrahan



Clockwise from above left, Southern Theatre members display their style for Homecoming '08, "Follow the Yellow Brick Road ... There's No Place Like Home"; Ashley Linebarger, freshman mass communications major, shines with Lion Pride; Mike Lee marches with the band during the parade; Becky Beasley and Kaelin Daniel parade through campus; University President Bruce Speck throws candy along the parade route; the Lion dance team spells out MOSO at halftime; Bruce and Carmen Speck celebrate with Homecoming queen and king, Alesha Gilleland and Daron Harris; the Lions observe halftime festivities. Unless noted, all photos by Glenn Landberg.



## Lion Pride roars onto campus as alumni, students, faculty and staff head down the 'Yellow Brick Road'

In the early 1970s, Brannan was an assistant foreign news editor and economic analyst at UPI world headquarters in New York.

He joined the New York Stock Exchange as manager of its media communications and news bureau and subsequently held corporate consulting positions in Dallas, Boston and Los Angeles, returning to newspaper work as an editor on the foreign news desk of the Los Angeles Times.

**Jim Frazier**, former MSSU football coach

and athletics director, was one of this year's Lion-Hearted recipients. Frazier was named head football coach at Missouri Southern in 1971 and led the program to national acclaim. In his second season, Frazier guided the Lions to a 12-0-0 record, a No. 1 national ranking and the NAIA Division II National Championship. He was named district, area and national coach of the year.

Frazier's 1976 squad won a share of the inaugural Central States Intercollegiate Conference crown and was voted NAIA

District 16 champion. He shared either league or district coach of the year laurels from 1982-84. His 1985 team notched MSSU's 100th all-time win after Southern became a senior college in 1968. Frazier was inducted into the Southern Letterman Alumni Association Hall of Fame in 1986.

Frazier saw the construction of Fred G. Hughes Stadium, which opened in 1975. He led Missouri Southern into the NCAA and the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association.

Frazier also saw the fruition of a dream





*Alumni and friends of Missouri Southern State University were honored at the Lion Pride brunch in October 2008. From left, Tom Rutledge, Lions head coach for men's track and field/cross country, Missouri Southern Hall of Fame inductee; Jack Brannan, 2008 Outstanding Alumnus; Ruth Kolpin-Rubison, University supporter, and Jim Frazier, former Lions football coach and athletics director, were 2008 Lion-Hearted recipients; and former Lions athletes Terry Dobbs, football, and Neely Burkhart, volleyball, Hall of Fame inductees.*

— construction of the Leggett & Platt Athletic Center.

He and his wife, Della, have been married for more than 45 years and are the parents of two sons and six grandchildren.

**Ruth I. Kolpin-Rubison**, also a Lion-Hearted recipient, has been one of the most influential entrepreneurs in this area and a supporter of the University.

She moved to Carthage, Missouri, in 1962 and filed with the FCC for a 250-watt radio station.

She later filed to place an FM station in Carthage. Kolpin-Rubison worked with commissioners, a former competitor and the FCC commissioner to change rules in the United States.

In September 1965, she was granted a franchise, Carthage Cablevision Inc.

Kolpin-Rubison expanded her cable systems in 1979 and franchised, built and operated 27 cable TV systems.

In 1990, she turned over the radio stations, KMXL-FM and KDMO-AM, to her youngest son, Ron Petersen. In 1999, Kolpin-Rubison sold her cable system to Cox Communications.

She later established the Ruth I. Kolpin Foundation, which has benefited many area organizations and charities since 1999, including the Missouri Southern TV studio.

Kolpin-Rubison also operates the Ruth I. Kolpin Enterprises LLC, a property management company, and resides in Carthage with her husband, Richard "Dick" Rubison.

Also recognized Homecoming weekend were Hall of Fame inductees Tom Rutledge, head coach for men's track and field/cross country; Terry Dobbs, a four-year starter for the football Lions and 1985 graduate; and Neely Burkhart, four-year starter for the Lions volleyball and a 1998 graduate. They made their acceptance speeches at the Lion Pride Brunch.

We appreciate the continued support of the Joplin and campus communities for their participation in Homecoming activities.

The weekend is a time to gather, host our alumni, and showcase all of the exciting changes at the University. It is a fun and exciting time for our wonderful students, faculty and alumni to reconnect with Southern.

There is no better way to celebrate than coming home. We look forward to seeing all alumni back on the Missouri Southern campus September 25-26, 2009, by celebrating in the Olympic spirit as we "Go for the Green and Go for the Gold."

— Elisa Bryant, '04; Lee Elliff Pound, '86; and Stephen E. Smith, '77

## 2008 HALL OF FAME

**Tom Rutledge:** Lion men's track and field; cross country

**Position:** Head coach (1989-present)

**Stats:** Since 2000, has seven MIAA cross country and two MIAA indoor track and field championships; seven appearances at NCAA Division II National Meet; has coached five cross country and 26 track and field All-Americans in his career.

**Honors:** Four-time MIAA Men's Cross Country Coach of the Year; two-time MIAA Indoor Track and Field Coach of the Year; regional coach of the year honors for indoor track and field (1999, 2004, 2007) and cross country (2008).

**Personal:** Married to Karen; two sons, Chad, '01, and Kyle, '06.

**Neely Burkhart:** Lion volleyball (1994-1998)

**Position:** Four-year starter, outside hitter, two seasons as captain

**Stats:** Southern records include first in digs (1,776); second in aces (211); third in attack attempts (3,957); fourth in kills (1,421) and hitting (.268).

**Honors:** All-MIAA, Academic All-MIAA and Academic All-American selection; MSSU Outstanding Graduate (1998).

**Personal:** Bachelor's in biology, '98, MSSU; master's in physical therapy, University of Kansas; physical therapist-athletic trainer, Freeman Health System, Joplin.

**Terry Dobbs:** Lion football (1981-1985)

**Position:** Four-year starter, place kicker and backup punter

**Stats:** Southern career records include most points by a kicker (192); extra points (102); field goals made and attempted (30-51); tied for second longest field goal in MSSU history (52 yards).

**Honors:** All-Conference and All-District selection.

**Personal:** Bachelor's in marketing and management, '85, MSSU; operations coordinator, Yellow Transportation, Dallas.

*Missouri Southern Athletics Hall of Fame pays tribute, gives deserved recognition and enhances school tradition by honoring former athletic letterwinners and/or coaches who have shown distinctive, unique or exceptional ability while on campus of the school or since graduation.*

— Justin Maskus

Sports Information Director



# Q&A:

Missouri's Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ron Richard, began his new role in January. The 1969 MSSU alumnus takes time for our Crossroads readers.

**Q:** How did your time at Missouri Southern prepare you to be Speaker of the House?

**A:** During my time at Missouri Southern, I learned several invaluable lessons. My minor in English gave me a great command of the language. As you know, the job of a legislator demands a considerable amount of writing and speaking. Other than my studies, MSSU allowed me to become fluent in what it means to be a leader. I served as class president my junior year of college as well as serving on the Student Senate. Those strong leadership skills have allowed me to effectively take on the role of Speaker of the House.



Speaker of the House Ron Richard (R-Joplin) receives congratulations from members of the Missouri House of Representatives after he was sworn in on January 7, 2009, in Jefferson City, Missouri.

**Q:** Was politics your original plan or was that a surprise move for you?

**A:** Originally, I wanted to be an attorney and practice international law. As time went on, I decided business was the direction I would go. I guess you can say this job is a good combination of both. In addition, the southwest Missouri area means a lot to me and making a difference for this community was and still is a goal. I started on the City Council and eventually went on to become the mayor

of Joplin. It became more apparent as time went on that hard work and perseverance in the community produced good, positive change. I wanted to serve the public on a broader level and that's when I made the decision to run for state representative. I want to continue doing so, even after my time in the House.

**Q:** What do you think was key to your success?

**A:** The key to my success begins and ends with my family. As you know,

during session, I am in Jefferson City four to five days a week. It takes an immeasurable amount of support and patience from my wife, and I appreciate her encouragement. I also think a key to succeeding is to be open-minded and practice good, solid decision making. You have to get people around you who have good ideas and who have the ability to make tough choices. I'm surrounded by an incredible staff, and that has been beneficial for me.

**Q:** Do you encounter any other Missouri Southern alumni at the state capital?

**A:** Absolutely. Many state legislators are MSSU alumni.

Also, I meet with several key business people in our state as well as members of vital organizations that are MSSU graduates. In fact, my intern this session is a Missouri Southern student. Her name is Whitney Hart, and she is originally from Lamar, Missouri, planning to graduate in December. Whitney is a great example of what it means to be a student at Missouri Southern. She's a hard-worker and very bright. She's been a leader in my office and a leader among her peers.

— Rhonda Clark, '00

## MSSU alumni from southwest Missouri hold key state positions

### Gary Nodler

State senator (R)  
District 32  
Missouri Southern  
Class of 1972



**Senate committees:** Appropriations, chairman; Education; Rules, Joint Rules, Resolutions and Ethics, vice chairman; Joint Committee on Capital Improvements and Leases Oversight, chairman; Joint Committee on Legislative Research, vice chairman; and member of six other committees.

### Marilyn Ruestman

State representative (R)  
District 131  
Missouri Southern  
Class of 1981



**Secretary:** Republican Majority Caucus  
**House committees:** Conservation and Natural Resources, vice chairwoman; Senior Citizen Advocacy; Special Standing Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing; Rural Community Development

### David Cole

Chairman  
Missouri Republican  
State Committee  
Missouri Southern  
Class of 1991



**Public and professional positions:**  
Chairman of the Seventh District Republican Congressional Committee and the Barry County Republican Central Committee; partner in the law firm of Ellis, Cupps & Cole, Cassville, Missouri.

Sources: Missouri General Assembly, [www.moga.mo.gov](http://www.moga.mo.gov); and Missouri Republican Party, [www.mogop.org](http://www.mogop.org)



# ADOPT A LION



To spread Lion Pride throughout the area, the Missouri Southern Alumni Association is sponsoring an Adopt-a-Lion program. For \$250, local businesses can underwrite the cost of a lion statue while giving Missouri Southern artists a chance to showcase their talents. The Alumni Association is recruiting local businesses and MSSU artists or community artists to adopt and decorate lions and spread Lion Pride. Proceeds from the adopted lion benefit the Missouri Southern Alumni Association's scholarship fund. For additional information on adopting a Lion, please contact the Alumni Association at 417-659-LION.



**FAITHFUL COMPANION**  
Artist: Kristal Manning  
Underwriter: Lucky Dog



**NEVILLE NURSE**  
Artist: Kathy Adkins, R.N.  
Underwriter: Anonymous



**ABE THE 11 TAILED LION**  
Artists: Doug Musick, Tracey Ashell  
Underwriter: SMB Bank



**BOB**  
Artist: Jane Kleindl  
Underwriter: Commerce Bank





Photos, story and design by Jessi Youngblood



**COLBERT**  
Artists: Elisa Bryant, Megan Walker  
Underwriter: T. R. Hanrahan,  
The Chart



**STYLIN' LION**  
Artist: Maggie McGrill  
Underwriter: Dr. Michael LaFerla,  
LaFerla Orthodontics



**MEATY**  
Artist: Jessi Youngblood  
Underwriter: Golden Corral

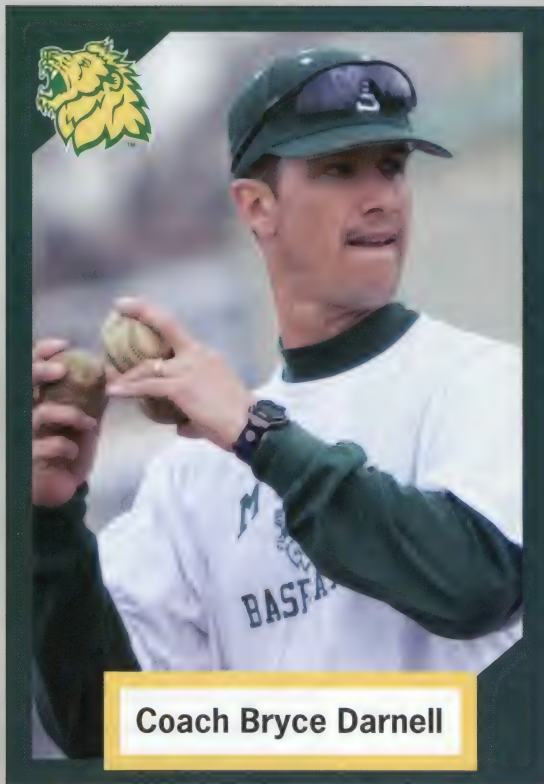




# Beyond the spotlight

In his view from the dugout, Lions coach puts team first





**Coach Bryce Darnell**

**B**ryce Darnell can play the imaginary guitar. Standing behind the backstop, Missouri Southern's head baseball coach sang and strummed along to music from the loudspeaker, using a bat as his instrument.

While chatting with players and dancing to music, Darnell popped a stray ball into the air with his left hand and smashed it toward the outfield with his bat-turned-guitar.

Darnell is the third coach in Southern's baseball history, replacing Warren Turner, the Lions head coach from 1976 until his retirement in 2007.

Darnell began his second season this spring after being hired in May 2007.

A 1997 Southern secondary education graduate, Darnell left his job of eight years as head baseball coach at Webb City High School, where he and his team won three state championships.

With his first season behind him and the Lions improving, Darnell is pushing his team forward, being careful to avoid the spotlight.

"He's done that as long as I've known him," said his wife, Pamela (Oldt) Darnell, a 2000 Southern graduate and former soccer player. "He avoids the attention; that's just him. He's a humble person."

Even in his coaching, Bryce concentrates on a team-first approach.

The Darnells met in the old Lions' Den when it was in the Billingsly Student Center basement. They have two daughters, Darcy, 7, and Cy, 4. Pamela attributes her husband's musical interludes to Darcy's guitar lessons.

Off the field, the coach maintains what many call a personal relationship with his players, including having the team over for a barbecue with his family and

**Graduated from Missouri Southern :  
1997**

**Years at Webb City High School :  
8**

**Joplin Globe Coach of the Year :  
2002, 2005**

**Joined Lions Baseball Coaching Staff :  
May 22, 2007**



being invited to the baptism of two of his players.

"I know it meant a lot that they wanted him to be there," Pamela said. "He was very impressed and proud of them."

The Lions coach is charged with recruiting new players and making sure his team performs up to academic standards.

"A lot of people that aren't familiar with what college coaches do, people on the outside, they don't see that time," Pamela said. "It still comes with the stresses of getting kids' scholarships lined up and making sure the kids are doing what they need to do to stay eligible."

"He feels like he has a responsibility for the kids who come from states away. Just sometimes going out of your way to do the little things can show someone how to appreciate the bigger picture. Obviously, most of these young men are not going to be playing baseball after college, but if Bryce and the rest of the team have taught them a life lesson, to be a good sport in life and on the field, that's going to be a lesson that they have in any avenue they take."

Standing in the dugout, Bryce leaned on his forearms and surveyed the field and his team. A baseball cap with sunglasses on the bill shielded his eyes, though the sun was behind the clouds. A knowing smile showed white teeth as he left the dugout and called to one of his basemen.

"Why didn't you throw to second?"

Snatching a ball from the ground, he dusted it off and lobbed it again toward the outfield. Crossing his arms, he lingered just beyond third base, watching his players practice, before returning to the dugout.

"I've made baseball my life, and I would never change that," he said. **C**

— Story and photos by Alexandra Nicolas, '11





Photos by Mike Gullett

*Left, quarterback Adam Hinspeter goes back to pass the ball during a football game against the University of Central Missouri on October 18, 2008. Center, senior Kara Eckard participates in the 2008 Missouri Southern Stampede. Right, Austin Whiles moves the ball during a men's soccer match last fall at Missouri Southern State University.*

# It's a wrap ...

## Lions notch records in fall 2008

### Football (4-7)

The Missouri Southern football team finished year three under head coach Bart Tatum with a 4-7 record, including wins to start the season against Harding and Haskell, as well as wins in conference play against Emporia State and Fort Hays State.

Senior quarterback Adam Hinspeter (Centralia, Missouri) finished his career as one of, if not the best, quarterbacks in Missouri Southern history. He put his name in the record books as tops in completions, passing yards, total offense and completion percentage. He set the school record for passing yardage in a game (422) and tied the record for touchdowns in a game (five) in the season opener against Harding. Hinspeter also ranks first all-time in the MIAA in completions, third in career passing yards, fourth in total offense and sixth in passing touchdowns.

Junior linebacker Jared Brawner (Kirksville, Missouri) led the MIAA in tackles and was named first-team All-MIAA and All-Region, while being named to three different All-American squads and ranked 10th in Division II in tackles per game.

### Men's and Women's Cross Country

The men's and women's cross country teams continued their success as both programs were nationally ranked the entire season and saw solid team performances

at the Division II National Championships, where the men placed 22nd and the women placed 16th.

The women won their third straight MIAA cross country title and their second straight NCAA regional title in a dominant performance that saw the team place no lower than second in five of the seven meets it competed in. The exceptions were the national meet (16th) and a meet with primarily Division I teams at Oklahoma State, where the Lions placed 11th. The team finished the season ranked seventh. Junior

Kimi Shank (Rolla, Missouri) was named an All-American after a ninth place finish in the national meet.

The men had another strong campaign, placing second at the annual Southern Stampede, one of the largest and most competitive cross country meets in the nation each year. The Lions placed third at the conference meet and second at the regional meet, running a stable of young but talented athletes. Southern finished the season ranked 18th nationally.

### Volleyball (10-22)

The Missouri Southern volleyball team battled through another tough MIAA campaign and played one of the toughest schedules in recent memory, fighting to 10 victories on the season.

Two Lions earned All-MIAA status, in a season that saw MIAA volleyball as challenging as it's ever been, with five teams ranked nationally in the top 16 and six teams making the eight-team NCAA regional field. Junior libero Kari Hammerbacher (Buffalo, Missouri) and sophomore hitter Ashlee Russell (Spokane, Missouri) were named honorable All-MIAA.

Seniors Sarah Joles and Ashley Hill (both of Blue Springs, Missouri) etched their names into the Southern record books this season. Joles finished her career with 4,219 career assists and is second place all-time in Southern history, just 409 off the school record. She ranks seventh all-time with 157 career service aces and holds the school record for most assists in a match, with 73, set in 2007.

Hill sits in ninth place all-time on the Southern dig list with 1,185 career digs.

*Left, forward Nikki Llewellyn moves the ball during an October 2008 match. Center, Jarkko Jarvenpaa (right) and Brennan Benkert run in the Missouri Southern Cross Country Stampede September 20, 2008, at Missouri Southern State University. Right, Sarah Joles prepares to set the ball for another player during a volleyball match last fall at Missouri Southern State University.*

Photos by Mike Gullett





### Women's Soccer (6-12-1)

The Missouri Southern women's soccer squad wrapped up the 2008 campaign in style with a 2-1 double-overtime win over Emporia State on Nikki Llewellyn's team-leading, fifth, game-winning goal of the season.

The Lions finished the season as winners of two of their last three matches.

It was a record-breaking senior season for Llewellyn, as the O'Fallon, Missouri, native became the Lions' all-time leader in goals scored (49) and points (109). Llewellyn's 11 goals on the season led the Lions for the fourth consecutive year. Ironically, Llewellyn scored the Lions' first goal of her freshman season and the

Lions' final tally of her senior year.

The Lions were honored with four All-MIAA selections, with Llewellyn and freshman Audrey Copenhaver (Kansas City, Missouri) leading the way as first-team picks. Senior Elise Cairo (Loveland, Colorado) and junior Stephanie Heines (San Antonio, Texas) earned all-conference honorable mention honors.

### Men's Soccer (1-14-1)

With the Southwest Soccer Conference earning two regional squads this season, along with seeing a member squad maintain the No. 1 national ranking for the majority of the season, the Missouri Southern men's soccer team picked up a

pair of All-SSC selections that included a first-team goalie.

Junior goalkeeper, the late Jon Hansen (Wichita, Kansas) earned first-team, all-conference honors with a conference-high 86 saves and also ranked fourth in the SSC with two shutouts.

Senior Austin Whiles (Overland Park, Kansas) was a second-team All-SSC pick, after leading the Lions with two assists, including the game-winning helper on Nate Evans' goal in the Lions 1-0 win over Northeastern State.

Hansen had six saves in the win over NSU, while Evans' score came just three minutes into the second half.

— Justin Maskus, Director, Sports Information

## Basketball teams see postseason action

### Men's Basketball

The Missouri Southern Lions had another successful season under longtime head coach Robert Corn.

The Lions started the season strong, winning their first 12 games and setting a new Missouri Southern record in the process for the most wins to start a season. Southern vaulted to the No. 10 national ranking in Division II, including a stunning victory over then No. 22 Central Missouri at home that saw the Lions come from 14 down in the final three minutes only to win the game on a buzzer-beater.

The season saw Coach Corn make his 16th trip (11th straight) to the MIAA Tournament. The Lions garnered the MIAA Freshman of the Year award for the second straight season as Carthage native Jason Adams joined Skyler Bowlin in giving the Lions back-to-back Freshman of the Year winners. Bowlin was a second-team All-MIAA selection and was named to the MIAA's All-Defensive squad.

The Lions enjoyed a Christmas trip to Puerto Rico, where Southern captured the 2008 Lexmark/Puerto Rico Holiday Tournament. Southern went undefeated, taking out Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras, Concordia (New York) and Puerto Rico-Bayamon. The Lions finished the season 19-12.

### Women's Basketball

The Missouri Southern Lions continued the tradition of excellence under coach Maryann Mitts as they raced to their eighth-straight winning season with a 19-10 overall record and a 12-8 mark in MIAA

play. Mitts became the all-time winningest coach in Southern women's basketball history when the Lions defeated Northwest Missouri, 64-47, on the road.

The win was her 129th career victory at Southern, passing Jim Phillips for tops on the list. Mitts finished the season with 135 wins in her Southern career and also passed the 200-win plateau as a collegiate coach.

Senior Danielle DeVader capped off one of the most impressive careers in a Southern uniform.

Despite battling through numerous knee injuries throughout her career, DeVader became the Lions all-time leader in 3-pointers made with 196, passing the

previous mark of 180. She had a career-high 72 on the season and led the Lions in rebounding with 6.1 per game. DeVader didn't leave her hot shooting beyond the arc, as she also ended her career with the best free-throw percentage in a career in Southern history.

The Lions started the season 7-0 and also had a stretch later in the year where Southern won seven-straight MIAA games.

The Lions advanced to the MIAA Tournament as the fifth seed and faced-off with fourth-seed Central Missouri, defeating the Jennies, 62-57.

— Justin Maskus, Director, Sports Information



*Left, Skyler Bowlin, sophomore guard, drives down the court for the Lions.*

*Center, Danielle DeVader, senior guard, fends off her opponent on Southern's homecourt.*  
(Photos by Mike Gullett)

*Right, Vincent Ateba, senior forward, goes up for a shot against a Central Missouri University Mule at the MIAA Championship in Kansas City, Missouri, March 5, 2009.*  
(Photo by Matthew Hicks)





# Former Lion enters Division-II Hall of Fame

**R**od Smith's career has come full circle. From the rock hard AstroTurf of Fred G. Hughes Stadium to the grasslands of Mile High Stadium, Smith has seen it all. From flying over Pittsburg State defenders to catching passes from Hall of Fame quarterback John Elway, Smith has experienced it all.

Smith, '93, a former All-American wide receiver at Missouri Southern, was rewarded for his achievements at the collegiate level with an induction into the Division II Football Hall of Fame on December 12, 2008, at the Florence Conference Center in Florence, Alabama.

It's been more than a decade since Smith strolled the sidelines as a Southern Lion.

When he stepped onto the Lions' field for the first time, little did he — or anyone for that matter — know what would transpire over the next few seasons. Smith became one of the greats in Southern football history. He helped MSSU capture its first, and to date only, MIAA title in 1993.

His passion on the field matched his passion in the classroom. He garnered Southern's Outstanding Graduate in 1994 after completing college with three degrees: economics and finance; marketing and management; and general business.

He attributes his early success to the late Jon Lantz, who guided Smith and the Lions to a sparkling 9-0 run in 1993.

"I had some amazing mentors in my life," said Smith in a phone interview in fall 2008. "A few of them just passed recently, and I would just like to thank them. He (Lantz) taught me how to dream big and it worked."

Smith was a rational athlete who respected the game, his coaches, teammates and fans. His attitude and outlook on life



Former Southern football standout Rod Smith was inducted into the Hall of Fame on December 12, 2008, in Florence, Alabama.

## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

**Lions:** 158 receptions, 3,122 yards for 34 touchdowns

**Broncos:** 849 receptions, 11,389 yards for 68 touchdowns; played for two winning Super Bowl teams

are a reflection of Lantz's leadership at the college level and former Broncos head coach Mike Shanahan's leadership at the professional level.

"I have had some of the most amazing coaches and teammates," Smith said. "I

have been blessed. It couldn't have been better being a guy from a small school, Missouri Southern, from Texarkana, Arkansas, and getting to come to an establishment (the Denver Broncos) and get to be a part of something special."

Smith, who was inducted into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame in February 2008, was one of two players to enter the Division II Hall of Fame.

Former Jacksonville State (Alabama) defensive back Eric Davis joined Smith. The induction ceremony coincided with the presentation of the Harlon Hill Trophy, Division II's version of the Heisman Trophy.

Smith, who was named to the Missouri Southern Athletics Hall of Fame in 2003, was in contention for the Harlon Hill Trophy in 1992 before a devastating knee injury in a game against Washburn nearly ended his career.

As a Bronco, Smith collected 849 catches in 12 seasons. He helped the Broncos win back-to-back Super Bowl titles in 1997 and 1998. Does Smith deserve a place in Canton?

"When people ask me, 'Should Rod Smith be in the Hall of Fame?' You're darn right he should," Shanahan said in an e-mail last fall. "There is only one person, and that is Art Monk, that's gone into the Hall of Fame in his position who has caught more passes."

Anyone who knows Smith understands he isn't going to sit around and promote himself — his career numbers speak for themselves. No, Smith doesn't agonize about what will happen next. He has prepared himself for life after football, and it all started here at MSSU. **C**

— Cody Dyer, '14

*Editor's note: Portions of this column appeared in The Chart, Southern's student newspaper.*

## Southern mourns the loss of three athletes ...

It's been a hard year for the men and women of Missouri Southern athletics. In the past year, Southern lost three student athletes — baseball player Danny Sickles, football player Renard Johnson and soccer player Jon Hansen.

Sickles, a junior accounting major, died of bacterial meningitis on February 23, 2008. An Orlando, Florida, native, Sickles transferred to Southern from Polk Community College.

"He was a great teammate, a great guy to

have around, and a really talented kid," said outfielder Logan Kachur.

"I'll remember him forever."

Johnson, a sophomore business management major, was killed January 26, 2009, in an auto accident while on his way to visit his girlfriend and their son in his hometown of Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Teammates said Johnson, or "Joc" to his friends, will be remembered for his big heart and his contagious laugh.

"He would want us to celebrate all the


great memories we had with him, and that's what we're going to do," said Skyler Vandiver, junior defensive back.

Hansen, from Wichita, Kansas, died February 8, 2009, during an intramural basketball game.

An autopsy revealed scarring around the heart, exacerbated by athletic activity. His teammates have pledged to honor his memory by continuing to play as friends as long as they are in school together.

— Alexandra Nicolas, '11





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There's still time to make a Tax-Deductible Gift or purchase a gift in honor of a loved one, acknowledge a graduate, or recognize a family member. For a pledge of \$1,000 (payable over five years), your name can be forever marked on a weather-resistant bronze plaque to be permanently mounted on the Patio at Missouri Southern's Mission Hills Mansion. You have an opportunity to become a permanent part of this project by pledging support to be placed on the bronze plaque. For a gift of \$100 per brick, you can cement your legacy and support of the MSSU Alumni Association directly as a part of the Patio. Your tax-deductible contribution will include your inscription on a premium-quality brick. Each engraved character will be filled with black epoxy for legibility.



## Mission Hills Mansion Restoration Pledge Card

You can pay by check or credit card.

### Personalized Brick Order Form

The 4 x 8 brick can be imprinted with three lines of up to 15 characters per line (including spaces). The 8 x 8 brick can be imprinted with six lines of up to 15 characters per line (including spaces) or one company logo. Please print (with capital letters) the name or message you would like on your brick in the boxes below, or attach a black and white camera ready corporate logo to the form. MSSU Alumni Association reserves the right to choose type size and arrange words to maintain balance and improve legibility.

#### Brick #1 Or Plaque Designation:


#### Brick #2:


#### Brick #3:


#### Brick #4:


#### Corporate Brick Order:


Leave your mark at Missouri Southern State University in a positive way through the purchase of a brick or by committing to the Society Giving Club, in support of the Mission Hills Mansion restoration project.

I/we wish to support the MSSU Mission Hills Mansion Restoration Project to help restore the Mansion. I pledge a tax deductible gift in the amount of:

- Society Giving Club  
( ) \$5,000 to \$9,999  
( ) \$1,000 to \$4,999  
( ) \$500 to \$999

Presidential Gold Society  
Presidential Green Society  
Young Alumni President's Society  
(Alumni who have graduated 10 years or less)

This gift is payable as follows:

- ( ) One Installment  
( ) Three Annual Installments  
( ) Five Annual Installments  
( ) Two Annual Installments  
( ) Four Annual Installments

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I wish to donate the following tax-deductible:

( ) \$500 8 x 8 Paver

( ) \$100 4 x 8 Paver

Six Lines, 15 Characters Each Line

or Company Logo

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Payment method:

( ) Check ( ) Credit Card Credit Card: ( ) VISA ( ) MasterCard ( ) Discover

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security #: \_\_\_\_\_ (three digits on back of card)

Please fill out all fields:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Please send me \_\_\_ cards to acknowledge my gift to forward to my honorees.



# Lion Tales

By Colby Williams, '09

*"We feel blessed as foreigners to come to this country and own our own business in a relatively short time."*

Anna Chen, '04 & '05

*Missouri Southern State University alumna and co-owner of a Joplin restaurant*

## ANNA CHEN

**Who:** Missouri Southern alumna, accounting, 2004; and international business, 2005.

**What:** Chen co-owns Wings n More, 3702 East Seventh Street, Joplin, with her husband, Long Liao. The restaurant opened in December 2006.

**Hometown:** Guilin, China

**How the business started:** "My husband has a degree in art but could only find part-time tutoring jobs. He likes to cook, and we have relatives in Atlanta who have owned a restaurant for close to 20 years. We tried their wings, and they were really good. My husband was already a really good cook, and when we came back, we opened this place."

**Secret to success:** "Most of our customers know us from word-of-mouth. We have a pretty good reputation, and people really enjoy the food. We chose this location, because it was close to the school."

**Greatest challenge:** "Knowing local taste is probably the most challenging part of this. We tried traditional Chinese first, but people thought we gave them the wrong dish. We had to adapt to people's tastes."

**Southern memories:** "The teachers were very helpful and classmates very friendly. I enjoyed it. I really feel like starting at Missouri Southern was unforgettable. I have a lot of good memories from there."

*Have an entrepreneurial tale to tell? Send your information for Lion Tales to the Alumni Association at [AlumniAssoc@mssu.edu](mailto:AlumniAssoc@mssu.edu) or call 417-659-LION.*



Photo by Colby Williams



# Chapters provide lifelong ties

The Missouri Southern Alumni Association has four chapters, and that number is growing along with our alumni base. Four chapters are located in Kansas City, Springfield, northwest Arkansas and Joplin. Our chapters help you network with other alumni and stay connected to your alma mater.

Our chapters give alumni an opportunity to get involved with MSSU, from hosting alumni-networking or sports-related events to raising funds for scholarships and getting involved with local communities.

The purpose of our chapters is to extend Missouri Southern physically, intellectually and socially beyond the boundaries of the campus. Furthermore, chapter involvement encourages friend-

ships and camaraderie among Missouri Southern alumni and friends. Our chapters also seek to promote membership and provide an ongoing presence of Missouri Southern in and around the community. When you join a chapter, you become a channel of communication between individuals and the University by informing other MSSU alumni and friends of the growth and progress on campus.

The Alumni Association is seeking individuals to identify geographic areas to develop chapters. If you are interested in learning more about a particular chapter or would like to start a chapter in your area, please contact the Alumni Office, 417-659-LION (5466), or by e-mail at AlumniAssoc@mssu.edu.



Left, University President Bruce Speck takes time for a fan shot at an alumni event. Right, KC alums can't help but display their Lion Pride at a Royals game.



## Former Lions roar at sports reunion

The passion for sports led you to the Missouri Southern Athletics Department. Earning a varsity letter at the college level took many hours of hard work, whether it was in the classroom or on the playing field. Memories of the countless hours spent with coaches, teammates and in Green and Gold will be with you forever.

Another year has passed for the Athletics Alumni Reunion. This year's event on February 28, 2009, was filled with former Lions sharing memories of their time at Missouri Southern. With the establishment of this special day in 2006, all former letter winners can remain connected

with the University and the athletics program that helped to develop each of our athletes into the people they are today. The goal is to facilitate fellowship, camaraderie and networking for former

MSSU letterwinners, while supporting the growth and development of the athletics program.

We would like to thank each and every one of you for attending this year's activities. We look forward to growing this

event and bringing you back next year. Please mark your calendars for the last home basketball game of the 2009-2010 season for this special event.

Thanks for coming and go Lions!



Blake Bard chats with Dr. Bruce Speck.

## CLASSNOTES

**1988 Angela Scott**, '88, is group controller for the Midwest region for Windsor Foods.

**1994 Kaylea Hutson**, '94, is the children's pastor-communications assistant for the First United Methodist Church in Siloam Springs, Arkansas.

**1998 Rick Rogers**, '98, is regional publisher, overseeing the daily operations of the Carthage Press, Neosho Daily News and the Aurora Advertiser for parent company GateHouse Media Inc. He is married to Elizabeth, '98, who is director of bands in Neosho, Missouri.

**2000 Aaron Lewis**, '00, joined MSSU as the new athletic facilities coordinator-business manager.

**Emily Petty**, '00, secured the position as event manager for the Youth Inaugural Ball, an 8,000-person blowout for President-elect Barack Obama's backbone of 18-35-year-old supporters. The Youth Ball was broadcast on MTV.

**2001 Kathy Feith**, '01, joined the staff at MSSU, accepting the duties of director of financial aid.

**Yancy McKnight**, '01, former Missouri Southern All-American offensive lineman, has been named strength and conditioning coach at Iowa State University.

**2004 Valerie Boswell**, '04, is the Institutional Environmental Health Officer for the U.S. Public Health Service for the Indian Health Services.

**2006 Derick White**, '06, will be the head men's and women's volleyball coach at Missouri Valley College.

**2008 Sean Grove**, '08, is a legislative assistant for the Missouri House of Representatives.

**Katie Wooldridge**, '08, is in management at Ernie Williamson Music in Joplin, Missouri.

**Paul Whetstone**, '08, recently received a contract to be in the 2009 *Noah, The Musical* in Branson, Missouri.

**Aaron Decker**, '08, is the music minister at First Baptist Church, Neosho, Missouri.

— Reports from the MSSU Alumni Association office



## JOPLIN JUNIOR COLLEGE

**Robert Lee (Bob) Bagby**

April 20, 2008

**Elizabeth Colombo**

March 1, 2008

**Norma Drake**

March 1, 2008

**Keith Griffis**

December 1, 2007

**Margie Hamilton**

September 23, 2007

**Norma Jacqueline (Butler) Holden**

July 29, 2007

**Vernon C. Hudson Sr.**

February 4, 2008

**J.C. Kuhn**

February 1, 2008

**Donald Gene Lake**

December 2, 2008

**Marie L. McBride**

March 1, 2008

**Jim Morris**

June 4, 2008

**Billie J. Pitts**

February 6, 2009

**Anne (Powers) Richardson**

March 15, 2008

**Mabel "Lucille" Shaddy**

November 18, 2007

**Marguerite Wheeler**

October 17, 2008

## 1940s

**Ralph Trussell, '43**

September 2007

**Conness Johnston Blair, '46**

December 9, 2007

**Martha J. Pendergraft, '46****Kathleen Jacobs, '47**

August 12, 2007

**Jimmie L. Davenport, '48**

## 1950s

**Leslie Pearson, '51**

April 26, 2007

**Rafael Rodriguez, '56**

July 22, 2007

**Mary Barbee, '56**

January 3, 2009

**Robert W. Farney, '57**

July 24, 2007

## 1960s

**William A. Crume, '66**

August 30, 2007

**Patsy Fannin, '66**

December 30, 2007

**Mary June Roark, '69**

December 8, 2008

## 1970s

**Bertram Davis, '71**

January 14, 2008

**Barbara Byrd Landreth, '71**

November 29, 2007

**Dennis R. Kruse, '72**

February 6, 2008

**Clarence (Fred) Shouse, '72**

August 13, 2007

**Darrell Bufford, '74****Julia (Judy) L. Williams, '74**

October 4, 2007

**Sue Kirk, '74**

March 28, 2008

**Catherine Day, '76**

April 2006

**Richard Scott Schroth, '76**

October 31, 2007

**Kevin Victor Davis, '76**

November 10, 2007

**Howard Eugene Nunnally, '76**

December 8, 2007

**Karen J. (Casavecchia) Wright, '76**

February 17, 2008

**Robert D Thomas, '77****Donald R. Gipson, '77**

April 7, 2008

**Earnest Cliff Kidder, '78**

August 1, 2007

**Ann Meinhardt, '78**

November 24, 2008

**William S. Hartley, '79**

## 1980s

**Dr. Mark Wesley Catron, '80**

June 19, 2008

**Christopher C. Larson, '80**

January 5, 2009

**Judith A. Rice, '81**

July 13, 2007

**John W. Holliday, '81**

July 5, 2008

**Bill D. Hammond, '84**

August 15, 2007

**Marcia Ruth (Burrows) Neely, '84**

February 16, 2008

**Barbara J Haase, '86****Hazel Maria Birdsong, '88****Klaashia Blanchard, '88**

July 23, 2008

**Robert C. Skinner, '89**

August 14, 2008

## 1990s

**Richard E. Doty, '90**

January 24, 2008

**Nancy Franklin, '90**

May 28, 2008

**Tammy Wiles-Benfer, '92**

March 8, 2008

**Roberta C. Evans, '93****Sheri Thomas, '96**

July 14, 2007

## 2000s

**Sunni E. Stumpff, '03**

June 16, 2007

**Aaron Marie Winters Reed, '05**

May 24, 2008

## FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY

**William Barnes**

December 5, 2007

**Lawrence Beard**

September 9, 2008

**Tyler Heath Casey**

May 12, 2008

**Dr. Donald Crockett**

May 12, 2008

**Max Louise Dalton (Joplin Junior College)**

September 14, 2008

**Len DeLisle**

August, 29 2008

**Trisha Leighann Martin Endicott**

July 14, 2008

**Virginia Erwin**

October 23, 2007

**Ernest S. Evans**

May 3, 2008

**Thomas Scott Gibson**

December 24, 2007

**Richard Kane Gordon**

August 16, 2007

**Tom Helm (Joplin Junior College)**

September 5, 2008

**Ruth Humble**

August 13, 2007

**Glen Oliver Johnson Jr.**

April 22, 2008

**John F. Johnson**

January 7, 2009

**Harold D. Keller**

December 12, 2007

**Marguerite Lawson**

May 24, 2008

**Lloyd David Lewis**

May 23, 2008

**Laura S. Lindner**

June 3, 2008

**Anthony (Tony) M. Logan**

September 2, 2008

**Paul Lucas**

December 16, 2007

**Virginia Ann Carter McGaughey**

July 24, 2007

**Billie McPherson**

July 27, 2008

**Richard Morris**

December 24, 2007

**Elliott M. Morse****Tom Murray****Carroll E. Pattison**

July 16, 2007

**Lucille Paul**

July 8, 2008

**Gregory Potter**

May 11, 2008

**Michael L. Shafer**

July 8, 2008

**Syble Louise Smallwood**

June 22, 2008

**Earl O. Smith**

October 25, 2007

**Roger Stebbins**

August 27, 2007

**Sarah Dean Story**

February 4, 2008

**William F. Ummel**

March 30, 2008

**Mary Upsher**

December 15, 2007

**Emma Wilder**



# Missouri Southern remembers faculty and friends

## FACULTY

**Wiley A. Beals**, 71, died February 1, 2008. He was the director of the radiologic technology program at Missouri Southern from 1973 to 2001. Upon his retirement he left a legacy of excellence in radiology education.

Beals was born in Garrison, Kansas. After seven years in the Army, he graduated from Burge Radiology Technical School in Springfield. He taught there until he began working as chief of radiology at Sale Memorial Hospital in Neosho, also owning and operating Beals' Cabinet Shop.

In 1973 he became director of radiology at St. John's Regional Medical Center in Joplin. During that time, MSSU developed the radiologic technology program where he worked as an instructor until his retirement in 2001 and continued to work part time until 2002.

Beals is survived by his wife, Bonnie; a daughter and son; six grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and five foster children.

**Janice "Jan" Crandall**, a longtime friend, adjunct professor and supporter of Missouri Southern State University, died February 15, 2008, in Carthage.



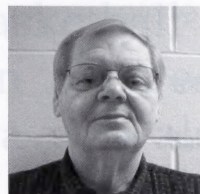
Crandall

She taught as an adjunct professor in the Missouri Southern English Department for more than 20 years and was director of the Carthage R-9 School Foundation, which she helped establish. She was active in Alpha Chi Omega for 30 years, serving as the national president for two terms. She was an active Lionbacker.

Survivors include her husband, Doug, and their three daughters, Kathryn, Sarah and Elizabeth.

**Bernard "Bernie" Johnson**, 61, of Joplin, died November 1, 2007, at Freeman West Hospital. A 1964 graduate of Joplin Senior

High School, Johnson received his associate degree in 1967 and his bachelor of science in 1969, in business administration,



Johnson

homa.

Johnson began his 33-year career at Missouri Southern, teaching business and marketing courses. He served on many committees, including the promotions, grievance, infractions and eligibility committees and the National and MIAA Conference. He chaired the promotions committee in 1999 and the head football coach search committee in 1997. He was faculty athletic representative to the MIAA Conference, the NCAA and NCAA Division II, and chairman of the athletic committee.

Johnson was a city of Joplin councilman from 1988-2006; Joplin's mayor from 1992-94; and mayor pro tem from 1994-96. His appointments included the Regional Ad hoc Legislative Committee to Enhance Economic Development in Southwest Missouri and the board of directors of KAPstone House.

He is survived by his wife, Sharon, a son and daughter, and three grandchildren.

**Cameron Pulliam**, 72, a retired Missouri Southern State University faculty member, died September 9, 2008, at his home in Carl Junction, Missouri, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Pulliam was licensed to preach at age 17 by Forest Park Baptist Church in Joplin. He received his associate of arts from Hannibal-LaGrange in 1955, and a bachelor of arts with a major in English literature at Grand Canyon Baptist College in Phoenix.

He attended Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Pulliam received a mas-

ter of education and educational specialist at the University of Missouri in 1966, then his Ed.D at MU in 1981. He retired from Missouri Southern after a successful career in public education. Continuing his life of service to the community, he pastored many churches throughout his life, most recently in the southwest Missouri area. He is survived by his wife, Deborah, a son and two daughters, and 11 grandchildren.

**Dr. Art Saltzman**, 54, writer and Missouri Southern State University professor of English, died at his home on January 8, 2008.



Saltzman

Saltzman joined the Missouri Southern faculty in 1981. He received his A.B., A.M. and Ph.D. from the University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign).

In 2003, he received the Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. He was popular among students and faculty and was known for his wit and wisdom both in and out of the classroom.

Saltzman was selected as winner of the 2003 Victor J. Emmett Jr., Memorial Prize, awarded each year to the author of the best article in *The Midwest Quarterly*.

A native of Chicago, he authored several books, the most recent being *Solve for X*. His award-winning creative writing has appeared in many journals.

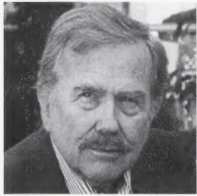
Saltzman is survived by his daughter, Elizabeth; his mother, Marion; his brother, Jeff; three nephews; his companion, Joy Dworkin, and her son, Jeremy; and his ex-wife, Marla Marantz.

**Lonny Chapman**, 87, stage and screen actor and 2005 Missouri Southern State University Outstanding Alumnus died October 12, 2007. Born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and raised in Joplin, Chapman was a graduate of Joplin Junior College.

After serving in World War II, Chap-



man returned home and graduated from the University of Oklahoma. Chapman hitchhiked to New York City in 1947 with his college friend, actor Dennis Weaver.



**Chapman**

By 1950, Chapman had originated the role of Turk in the Broadway production of William Inge's first play, *Come Back, Little Sheba*.

Chapman's screen roles included parts in *The Birds*, *East of Eden*, *The Reivers*, *Reindeer Games* and *Nightwatch*. On television he appeared in many series, including *Gunsmoke*, *Bonanza* and *McCloud*.

In recent years he had continued acting, often with brief cameo spots in movies and on television in such programs as *NYPD Blue*.

**Mary Helen Harutun**, 98, died February 23, 2008, at Spring River Christian Village in Joplin. A 1927 graduate of Joplin High



**Harutun**

School, she attended Missouri University at Kansas City. Harutun was a noted piano teacher for 84 years in Joplin.

For 23 years she taught in the public schools on released time. From 1955-73 she taught piano study as an adjunct teacher for Joplin Junior College, Missouri Southern State College and in Miami at North-eastern Oklahoma A&M.

She was recognized in 2006 as the Missouri Southern State University Alumni Association's Lion-Hearted recipient.

She served as state president of the Missouri Music Teachers Association in 1964 and 1965 and was a member of the Kansas Music Teachers Association, Oklahoma Music Teachers Association, National Music Teachers Association, National Guild of Piano Teachers, Guild Hall of Fame and American College of Musicians.

**Margaret Baughman McCaleb**, 87, who established the McCaleb Initiative for Peace with her husband, Kenneth, at Missouri Southern State University, died July 8, 2008. The McCalebs gave more than

\$150,000 in stock to the Missouri Southern Foundation in 1998 for the establishment of the Peace Initiative, whose purpose is to



**McCaleb**

examine the causes of war and discuss ways in which war can be prevented.

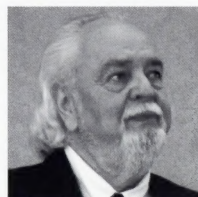
MSSU students, under the direction of faculty mentors, visit sites of former wars and other conflicts and publish their findings in *The Chart*.

She grew up in Joplin and was a 1940 graduate of Joplin Junior College. Kenneth, who founded and named *The Chart* in 1939, spent 19 months as a German POW during World War II; the couple married shortly after.

Kenneth worked in the nation's atomic energy program at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and then for 22 years at the Marshall Space Center in Huntsville, Alabama, before retiring in 1982. He died in September 2002.

Survivors include a son, Robert McCaleb, and wife, Patti; and three grandchildren, Laura, Leah and Landon McCaleb. Margaret resided in Cleveland, Tennessee, at the time of her death.

**Robert Wayne Plaster**, 78, died October 11, 2008, at his home in Evergreen, Missouri. Born in Kansas City, Missouri,



**Plaster**

he was raised near Neosho, Missouri, before graduating from Neosho High School and attending Missouri Southern State University. He served in the U.S. Army National

Guard for several years. Plaster founded several corporations and served on their boards, the first being in 1963, when he founded Empire Gas Corp. in Lebanon. He remained as chairman of the board and chief executive officer of that company until its divestiture in 1996.

He served on the board of directors of UMB Financial Corp. in Kansas City, Missouri, and Students In Free Enterprise in Springfield, Missouri.

He was a former president of Missouri State University Foundation, a board

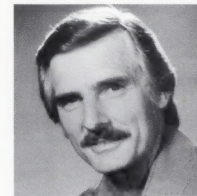
trustee for the College of the Ozarks and for Southwest Baptist University Foundation.

Plaster received an honorary doctor of humane letters from Missouri Southern State University and an honorary doctor of business administration degree from Southwest Baptist University.

Among his many philanthropic endeavors were funding buildings on many campuses, including the Plaster School of Business Administration at Missouri Southern. Other benefactors included College of the Ozarks, Missouri State University, Southwest Baptist University, Crowder College and Students in Free Enterprise.

He is survived by his wife, Jean, a son, three daughters and nine grandchildren.

**Dennis Weaver**, 81, actor, environmentalist and Southern alumnus, died of complications from cancer on February 24, 2006, in Ridgway, Colorado.



**Weaver**

The Joplin native attended Joplin Junior College in 1943, before interrupting his education to join the Naval Air Corps. He later graduated from the

University of Oklahoma.

Weaver and his wife, Gerry, established the Institute of Ecolonomics in 1993. Ecolonomics is a word Weaver coined to illustrate the necessary synergy between a healthy ecology and a vibrant economy to create a sustainable future. The institute was headquartered at Missouri Southern from August 2005 to July 2008.

On TV he played deputy Chester Goode in the classic western *Gunsmoke* and the New Mexico deputy solving New York crime in *McCloud*. He starred in nine television series and won an Emmy in 1959 for his role in *Gunsmoke*. He earned two more Emmy nominations for *Gentle Ben* and *McCloud*. Weaver appeared in several movies, and from 1973-75, was president of the Screen Actors Guild.

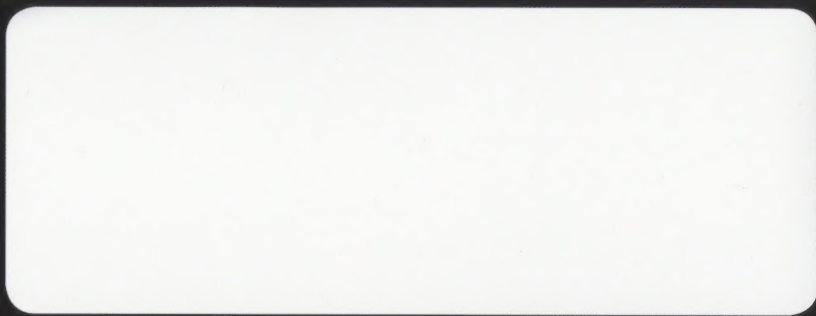
*This Memoriam listing and obituaries are current as of February 27, 2009. For any additions to the Memoriam page in the next issue, please send an e-mail with your information to AlumniAssoc@mssu.edu or call 417-659-LION.*



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